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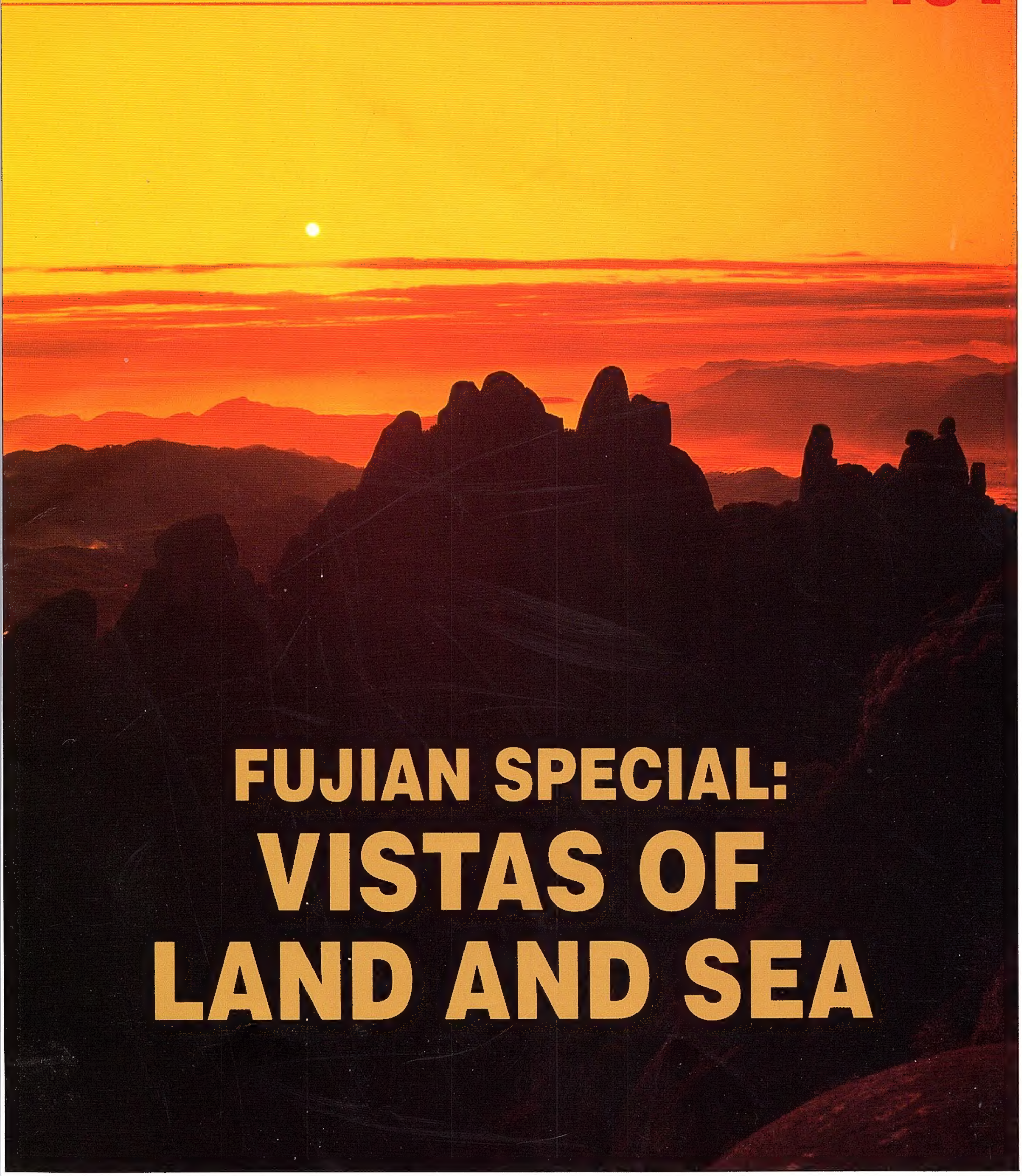

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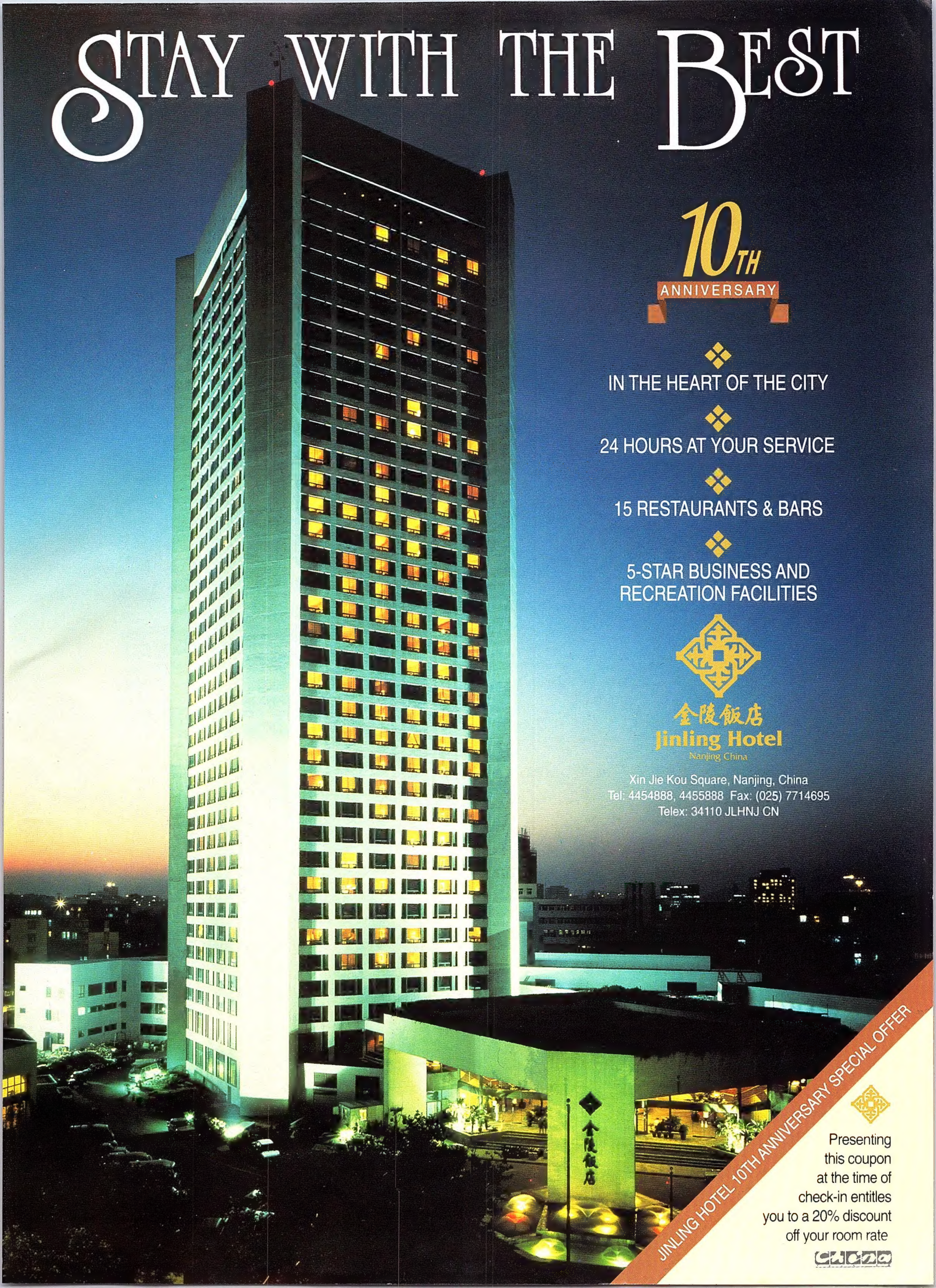

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Saga of an Ancient Land:

History

Fujian Province in southeast China has a very long and colourful history dating as far back as the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). At that time the State of Yue, located approximately in present-day Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, was defeated by the state of Chu, which ruled the areas of today's Hubei and Hunan provinces. After their defeat the Yue people were forced to move southward to settle in the areas now known as Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Vietnam. Those that went to Fujian were called Min Yue, and the province itself Dong Yue.

Later Emperor Shihuang of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.) set up a prefecture in Fujian and changed the name of the province to one word, Min. Even today this word is used as an abbreviation for Fujian, and people in the south of the province speak a dialect called the Minnan (southern Fujian) dialect.

During the waning years of the Qin Dynasty, which was then under the rule of Qin Shihuang's son, a general named Liu Bang staged a coup and, with the help of the king of the Min Yue, overthrew the Qin Court and founded the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24). In gratitude for his assistance, Liu Bang allowed the king of the Min Yue to build a royal city in northern Fujian.

Many years later the sixth emperor of the Western Han, Emperor Wudi (r. 140-87 B.C.), saw that the Min Yue were expanding their influence and sent troops to suppress the newly-established kingdom in the north of Fujian, forcing the Yue people to move yet again to other regions. During the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420), when northern tribes invaded the Jin region in the south, eight large clans fled from there to Fujian.

Towards the end of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), roving troops of a rebel named Huang Chao entered Fujian from Guangdong and Jiangxi and set up forts on the Fujian-Zhejiang border. Later, after Huang Chao was defeated, one detachment of his troops travelled long distances from eastern Henan to take over the cities of Quanzhou and Fuzhou. His younger brother became the king of Min and established his capital on the banks of the West Lake in Fuzhou.

The uprising peasant soldiers did not bring their families with them, and many ended up marrying local inhabitants. This association led to the development of the Fuzhou dialect, which has a pronounciation slightly different from languages spoken in the Central Plains. Imperial troops in pursuit of the rebels came from the Zhanghe River Valley in northern Henan. They entered Fujian from Jiangxi, going first to Zhangpu and later to Zhangzhou. Unlike the rebels, the imperial troops took their families with them and thus preserved the pronounciation of the Central Plains. Later on they also brought the music of the Central Plains, called Nanyin or "southern music", as well as operas related to Yiyang Opera from Jiangxi. However, there are two customs in southern Fujian not inherited from the Han nationality: leaping over fire during the Spring Festival, and putting a dead person's bones into an earthen jar several years after burial.

The natives of Fujian are called the ancient Min people. No written records about them have ever been found, but the boat-shaped coffins at Wuyi Mountain probably belonged to Xia-dynasty (c. 21st-16th century B.C.) Min people. A pictographic written language was discovered carved into a rock in the town of Hua'an and is believed to be another relic of the ancient Min people from the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.).

Besides the Min people, Fujian is home to several other nationalities, the largest of which is the She people, a branch of the Miao nationality who moved to Fujian from the Yangtse River Valley. Other minority people include the Hui, who are scattered in urban areas; the Ding and Guo clans in southern Fujian and Putian, descendants of Arabs and Persians who came to Quanzhou during the Tang and Song dynasties; the Dan people and a small number of Manchus. People of the Ding and Guo clans have curly hair, deep-set eyes and hook-shaped noses. The Dan people are said to be Mongols who were forced by the Han to move from the hinterlands to the coast of Fujian during the decline of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

Historically the Han nationality made five big emigrations, all from the Central Plains. Sometimes whole villages and tribes travelled long distances to Fujian in an organized way. These people, called Hakka or "guest families", retained their own languages, dress, customs and habits. It is said that when they entered the town called Ninghua across the border from Jiangxi, they saw a lovely forest on a jade-green plain and decided to settle down there. Many of their descendants later moved to Guangdong, Taiwan and Southeast Asia, and today the Hakka total some 60 million. Many prominent figures have been Hakka people, including Sun Yat-sen, his wife Soong Ching Ling, Guo Moruo and others.

A Brief Introduction to Fujian's History and Scenic Spots

ARTICLE BY CAI QIJIAO

Scenic Sights

If one enters Fujian from northeastern Guangdong's coastal city of Raoping, the first town one arrives at is Zhao'an, a place where residents of the two provinces exchange visits. To the north of Zhao'an is a place called Shuangshan, where the Changshan Overseas Chinese Farm is located. This farm was set up in the 1950s to receive overseas Chinese who were returning from Indonesia, Burma and Malaysia.

Southeast of the farm lies the Dongshan Peninsula, where there is a bathing beach, a Guan Yu Temple, the former residence of Huang Daozhou, a patriot at the end of the Ming Dynasty, the ruins of the ancestral temple of Zhu Xi, a Ming-dynasty philosopher and educator, as well as the three-star Huafu Hotel which has a grand view of the sea and mountains. The Dongshan Peninsula is known for its lobster, squid and grouper fish.

To the north of Dongshan is the large city of Zhangzhou, where lichee and banana orchards stretch for several kilometres. A place there called Yuanshan is the sole grower in the world of multi-stemmed narcissus, and the old Siwei Farm grows oranges and many kinds of exotic fruits. The people of Zhangzhou's Baihua (Hundred Flower) Village have been making their living for centuries by cultivating flowers. Other places there worth visiting include Nanshan Temple and Yundong Rock.

To the west of Zhangzhou is Longyan, famous for its locally produced wine, while further west is Shanghang, the site of the historical Gutian Meeting of the Red Army. To the north, Changding has a monument dedicated to Qu Qiubai, a Communist Party leader. Nearby Liancheng is home to Guanzhi Mountain, one of the ten major scenic sights in Fujian. Not long ago South China tigers, a rare species of these carnivores, were found on Meihua (Plum Blossom) Mountain, the largest primitive forest in western Fujian.

Located east of Zhangzhou is Xiamen, a former island now linked to the mainland and a booming special economic zone with a lakeside development region. Historical sites and scenic spots include the Mausoleum of Tan Kah-kee, a prominent, patriotic overseas Chinese, South Putuo Temple, the Huli Hill Fortress and Gulangyu Islet.

To the north of Xiamen is Quanzhou, at one time the world's second largest port. During the Tang and Song dynasties Arabian and Persian merchants came here in large numbers to trade with local merchants, and today one can still see many reminders of Quanzhou's colourful past. About 17 kilometres away from the city is the Overseas Chinese University, and further east lies the Chongwu Peninsula, where one can see the remains of defensive walls built during the Ming Dynasty. Jinjiang City and Shishi City to the south of Quanzhou are renowned hometowns of overseas Chinese.

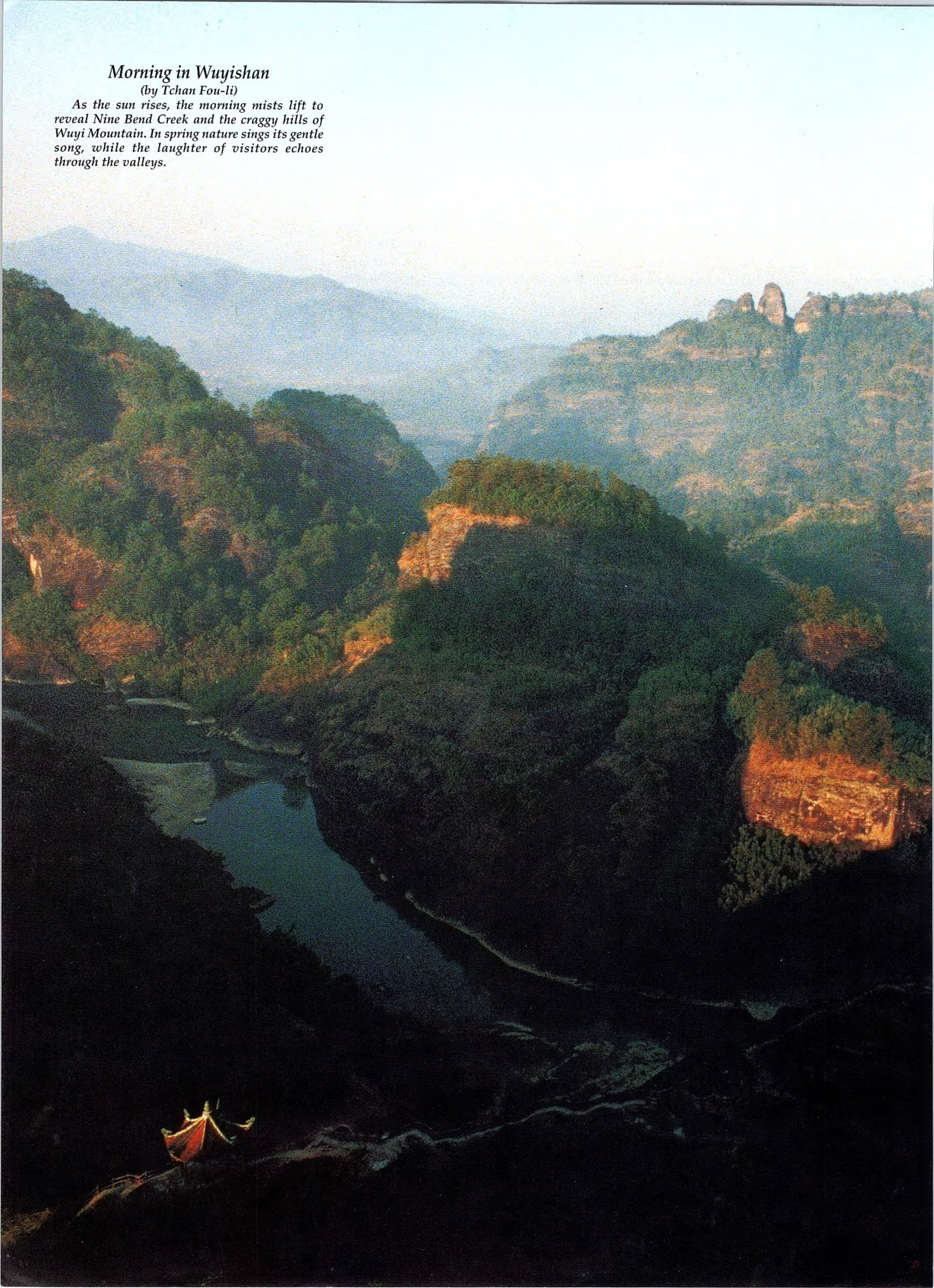
North of Quanzhou are the cities of Hui'an, Xianyou and Putian. Southeast of Putian is Meizhou Island, where Mazu, the Goddess of the Sea, is worshipped. Halfway between Putian and Fuzhou is the city of Fuqing. The major place of interest here is Shizhu Hill, a location said to be particularly effective for praying to the gods.

In the capital city of Fuzhou there is a great deal to see and do. Within the city are three hills and two pagodas, beautiful West Lake and the newly-built Zuohai Park. On the outskirts of Fuzhou one can visit Drum Hill, Xichan Monastery and Jinshan Monastery. Some interesting cities north of Fuzhou include Ningde, Xiapu and Fuding. Just north of Ningde is Zhiti Mountain, where there is an ancient monastery, and in Ningde proper one can stroll through Nanji Park. In Xiapu is Sansha Harbour, and in Fuding, located in the most northeastern corner of the province, one can visit Taimu Mountain. There are also many She nationality villages dotted throughout eastern Fujian.

One of Fujian's most well-known tourist spots is the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area, located along Fujian's northern border with Jiangxi. As a State-designated nature reserve, there are many beautiful sights here such as the Water Curtain Cave and Mount Huanggang, the highest peak in eastern China.

In the city of Shaowu in the far northwest of the province is a memorial temple to Li Gang, a Song-dynasty prime minister, and Canglang Pavilion, which is dedicated to Yan Yu, a Song-dynasty literary critic. To the southwest of Shaowu are two tourist attractions — Jinxi Lake in Taining and Yuhua Cave in Jiangle. To the south in Sanming are a forest protected area and Ruiyun Cave, whose god is said to be very effective in forecasting one's fate. Other scenic sights worth a visit include Taoyuan Cave and the Yinlin Stone Forest in Yong'an, and the Wild Goose Cave in Ninghua. For more detailed information on many of the places mentioned above, please see our main articles.

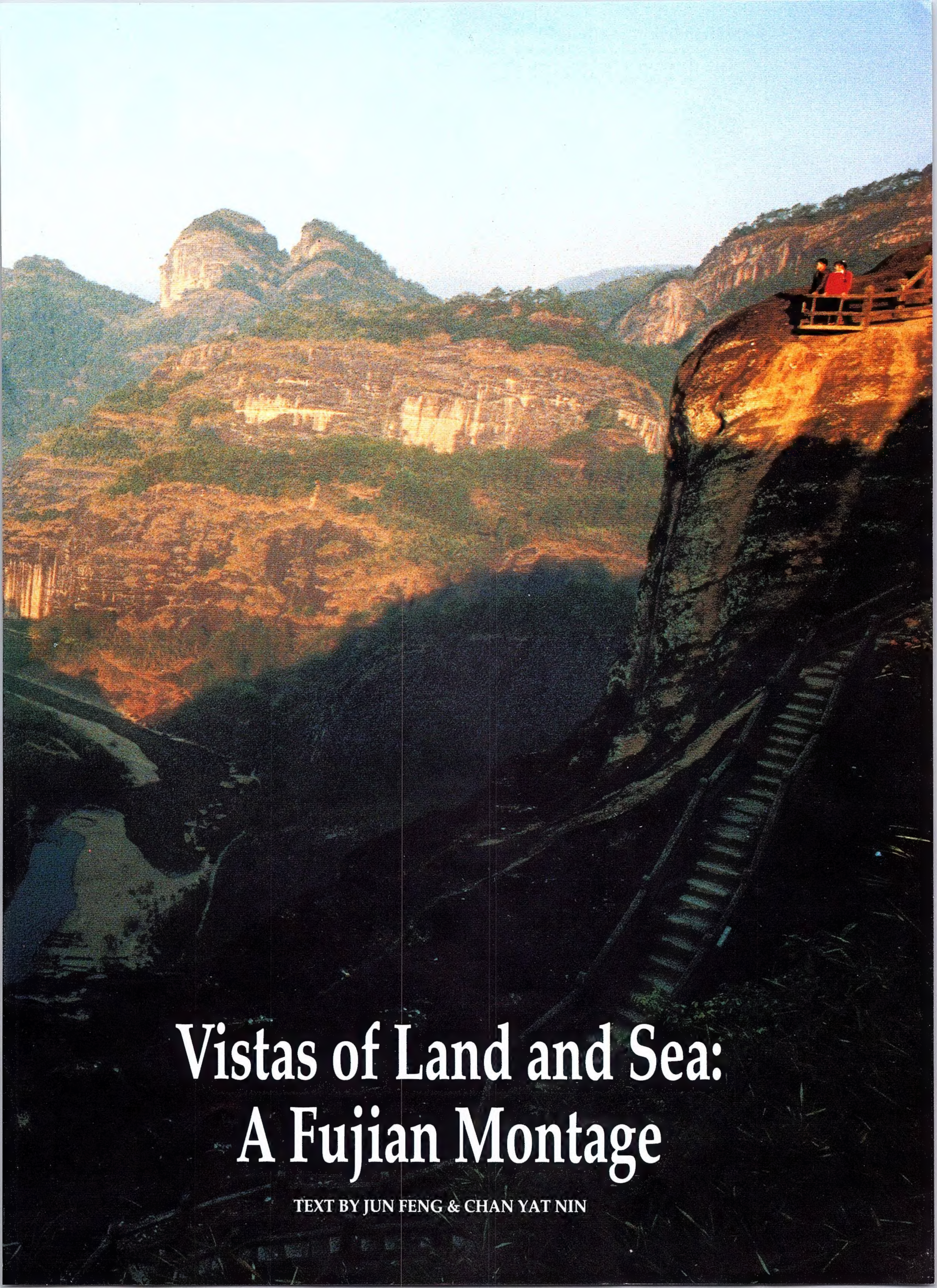
Translated by Anne Yan



Morning in Wuyishan

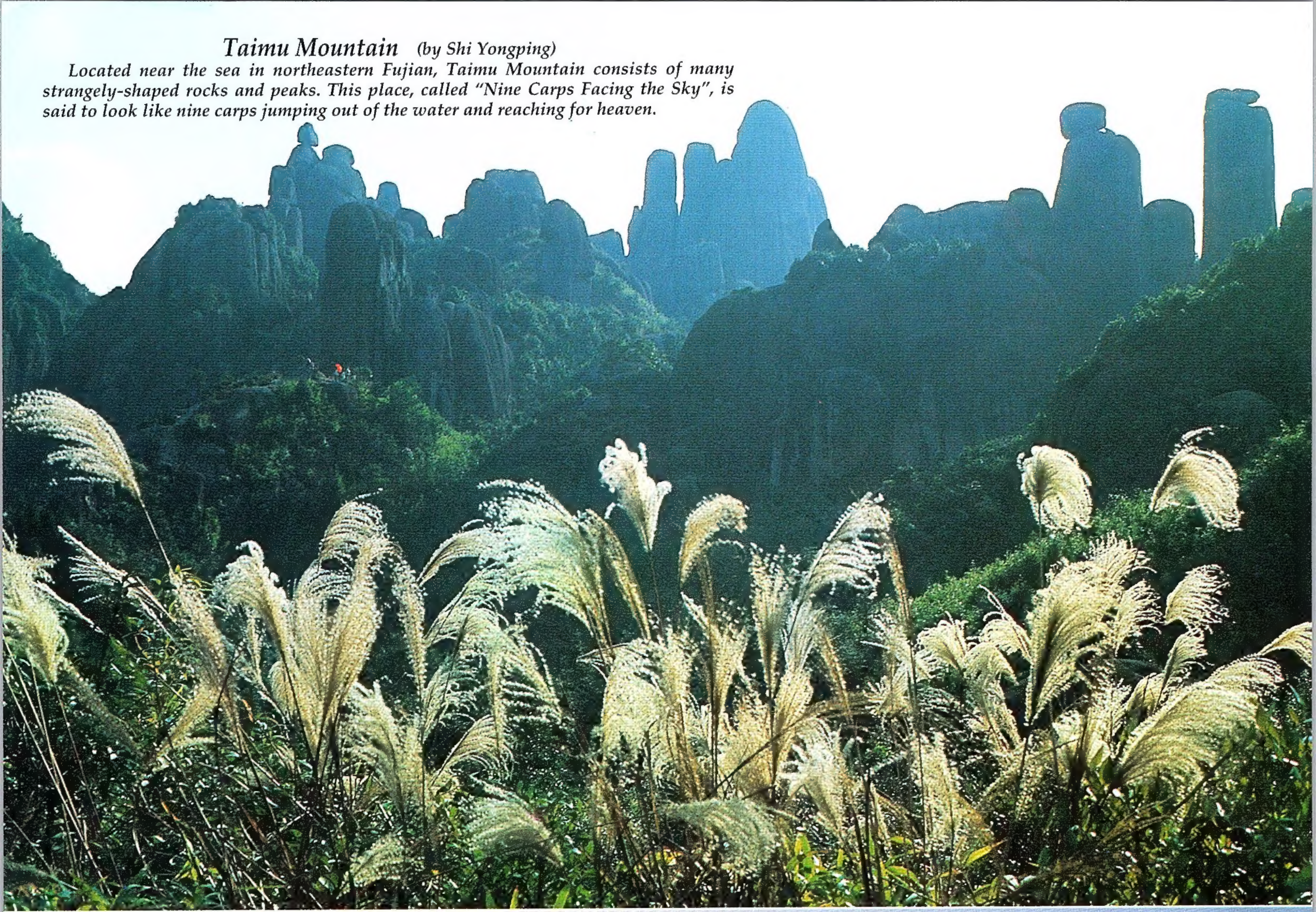
(by Tchan Fou-li)

As the sun rises, the morning mists lift to reveal Nine Bend Creek and the craggy hills of Wuyi Mountain. In spring nature sings its gentle song, while the laughter of visitors echoes through the valleys.



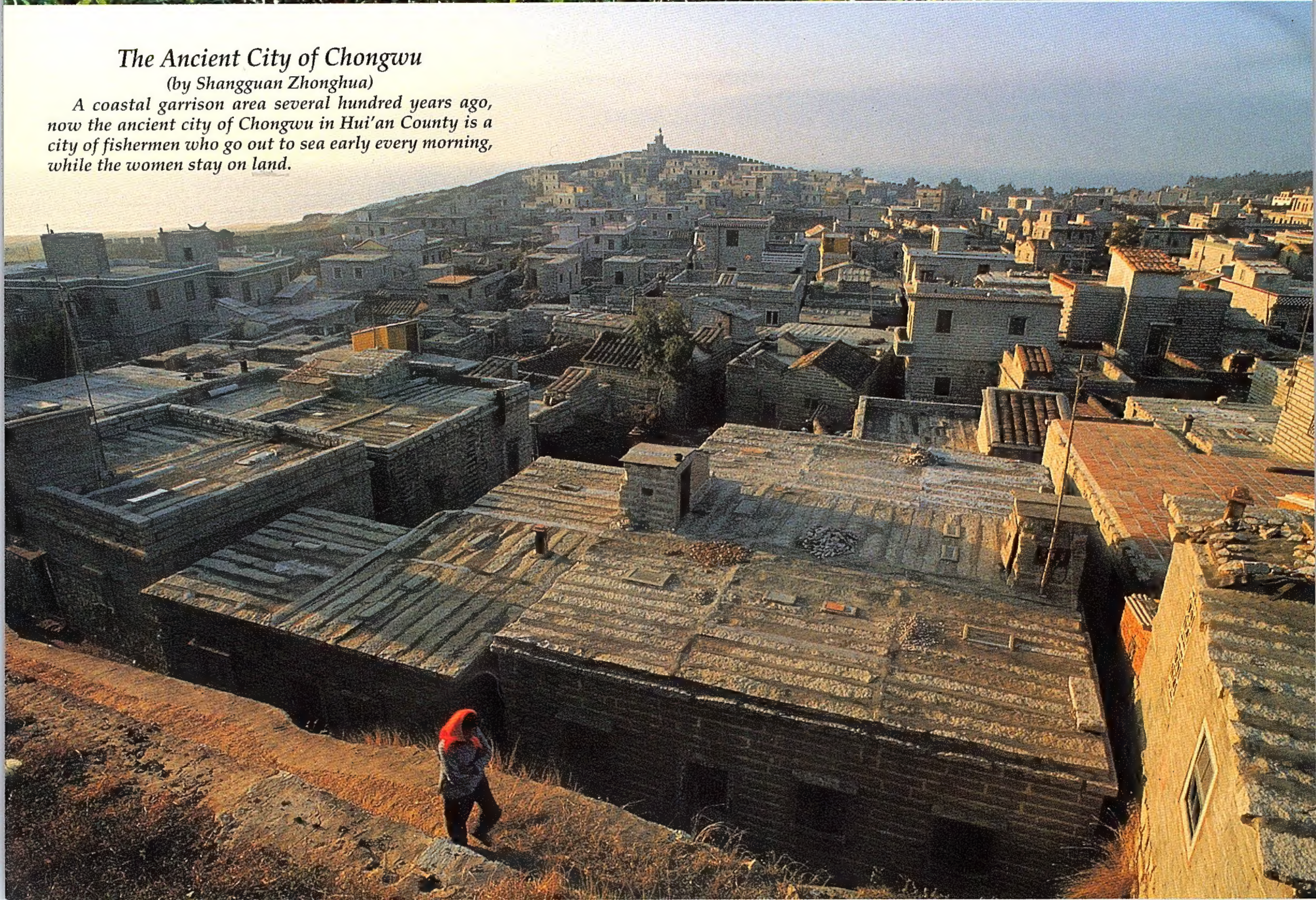
Vistas of Land and Sea: A Fujian Montage

TEXT BY JUN FENG & CHAN YAT NIN



Taimu Mountain *(by Shi Yongping)*

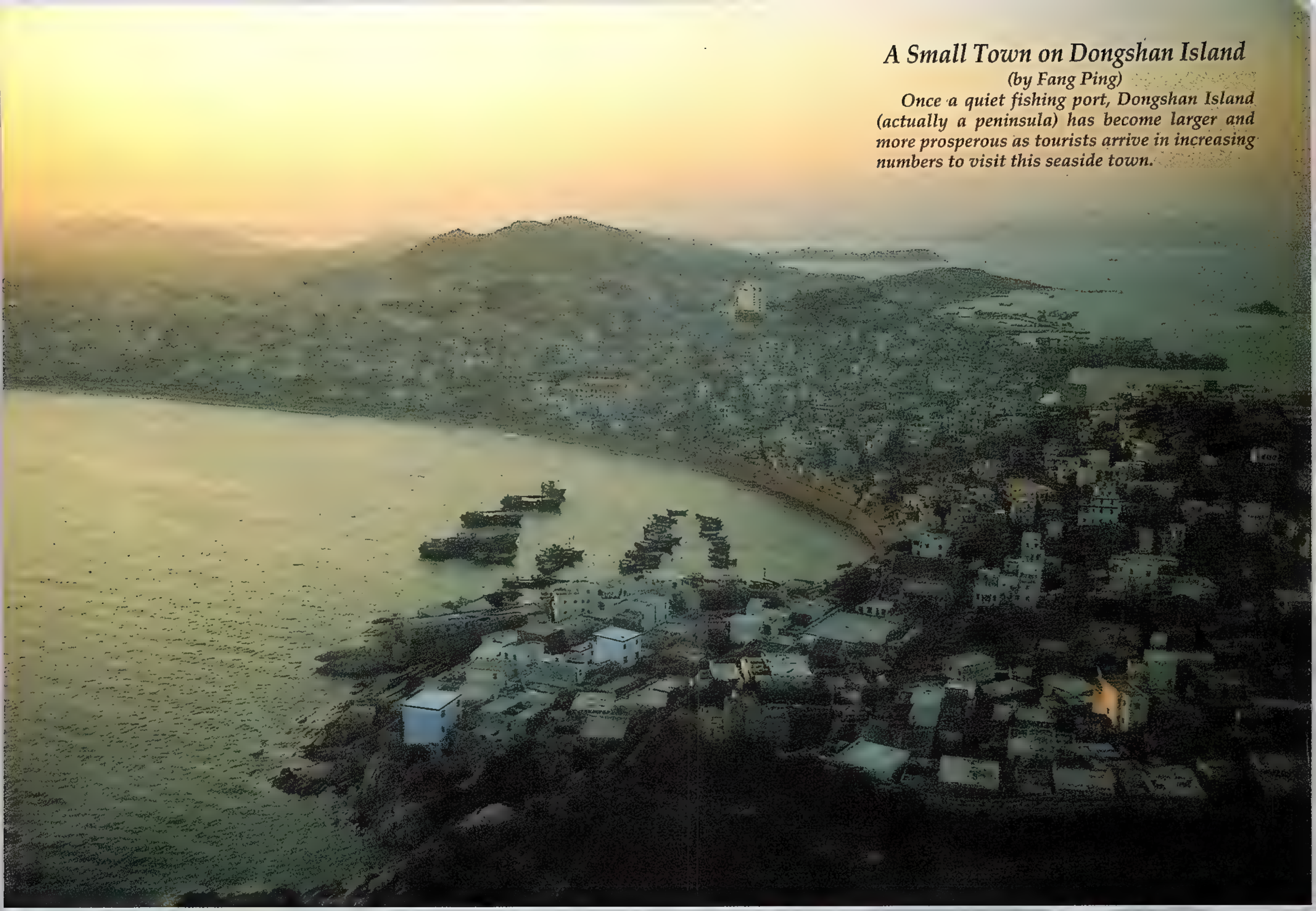
Located near the sea in northeastern Fujian, Taimu Mountain consists of many strangely-shaped rocks and peaks. This place, called "Nine Carps Facing the Sky", is said to look like nine carps jumping out of the water and reaching for heaven.



The Ancient City of Chongwu

(by Shangguan Zhonghua)

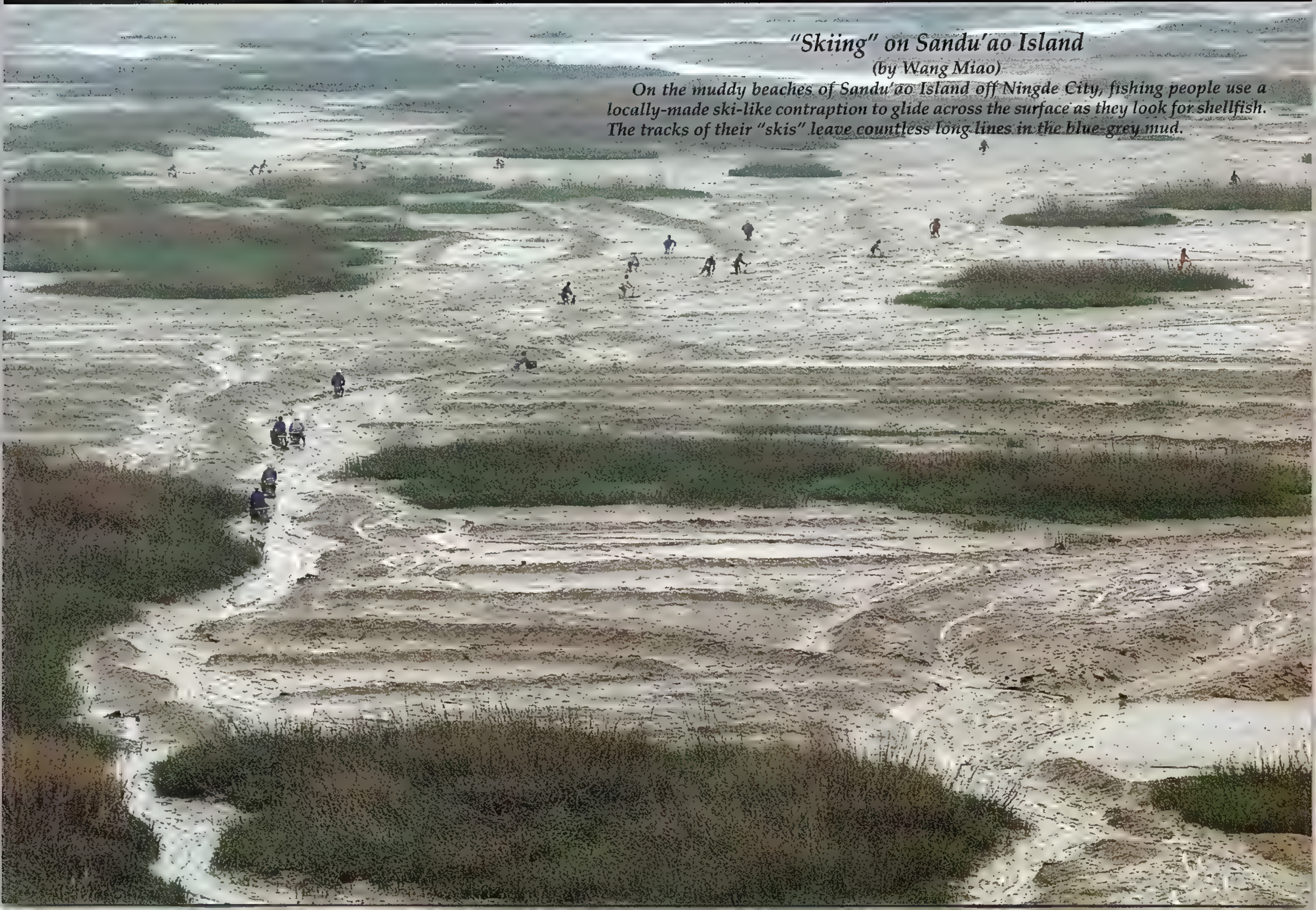
A coastal garrison area several hundred years ago, now the ancient city of Chongwu in Hui'an County is a city of fishermen who go out to sea early every morning, while the women stay on land.



A Small Town on Dongshan Island

(by Fang Ping)

Once a quiet fishing port, Dongshan Island (actually a peninsula) has become larger and more prosperous as tourists arrive in increasing numbers to visit this seaside town.



"Skiing" on Sandu'ao Island

(by Wang Miao)

On the muddy beaches of Sandu'ao Island off Ningde City, fishing people use a locally-made ski-like contraption to glide across the surface as they look for shellfish. The tracks of their "skis" leave countless long lines in the blue-grey mud.

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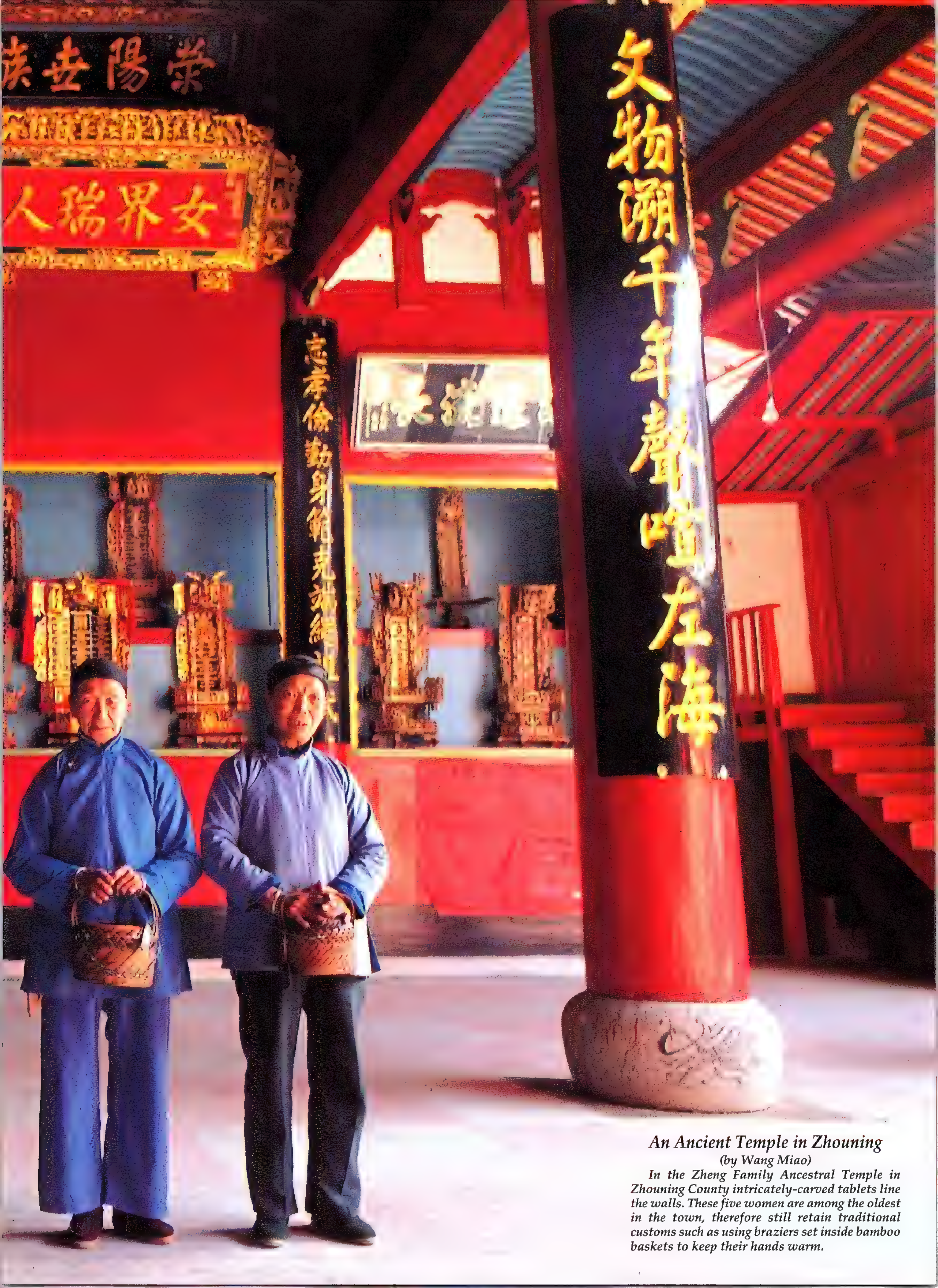

文物溯千年聲喧左海
女界瑞人

An Ancient Temple in Zhouning

(by Wang Miao)

In the Zheng Family Ancestral Temple in Zhouning County intricately-carved tablets line the walls. These five women are among the oldest in the town, therefore still retain traditional customs such as using braziers set inside bamboo baskets to keep their hands warm.

Daughters of the Sea

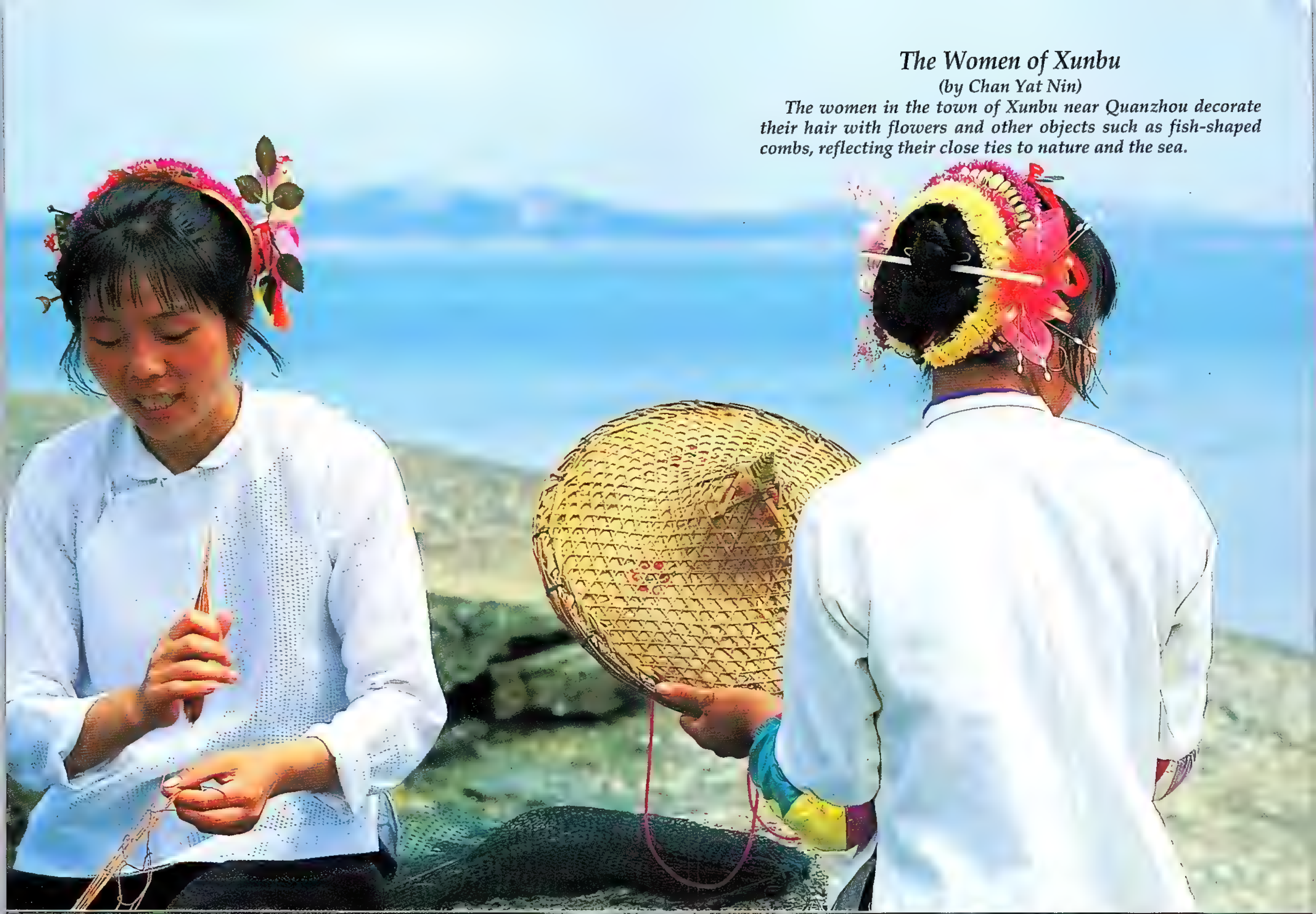
(by Chan Yat Nin)

As Meizhou Island is the birthplace of Mazu, Goddess of the Sea, the local fishing women often dress in imitation of her, with half-red, half-blue trousers and sail-shaped hairstyles.

Butterflies in Hui'an

(by Chan Yat Nin)

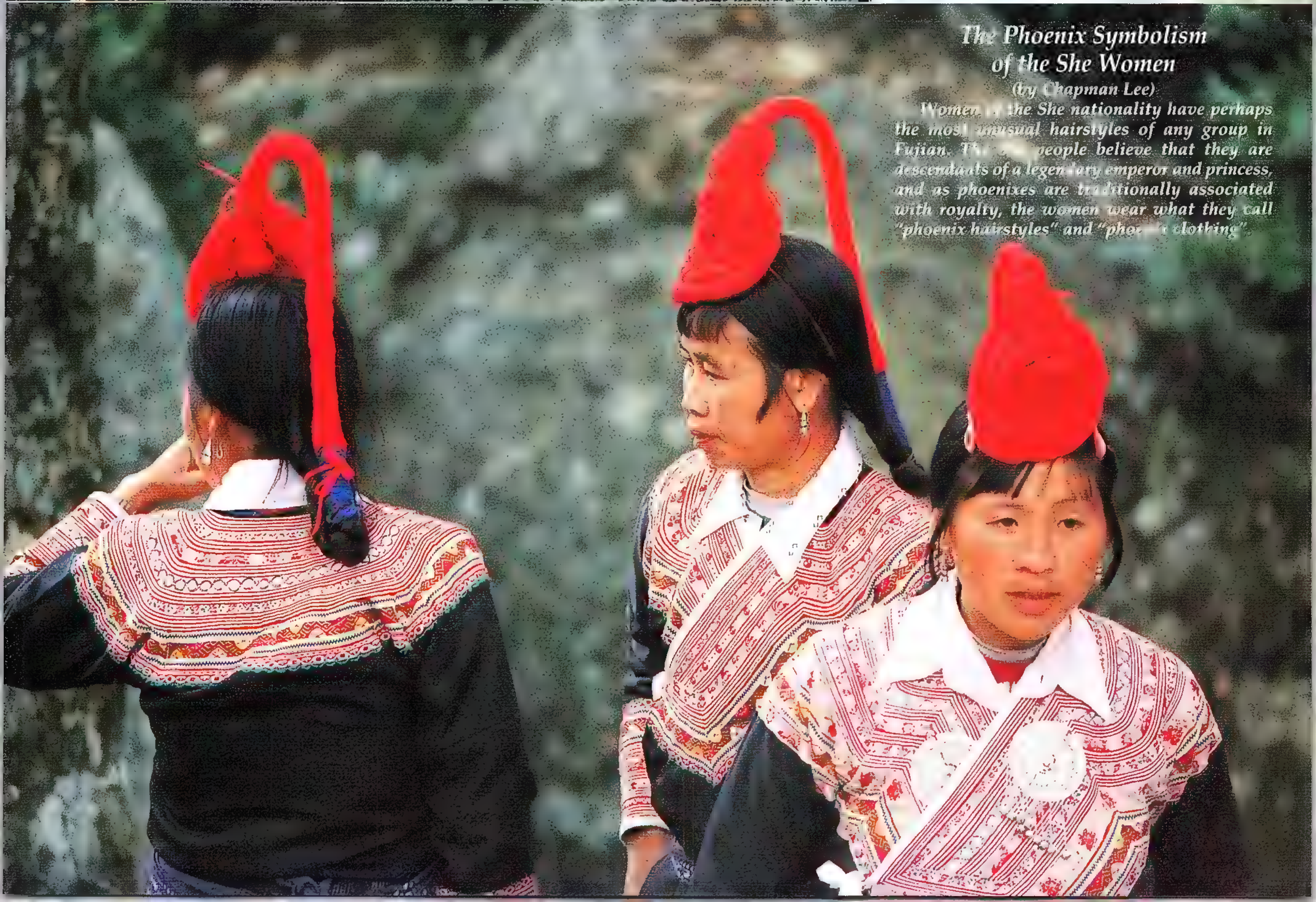
The ancestors of the Hui'an people worshipped the butterfly, therefore women here have the unique custom of decorating their scarves with handmade emblems that often resemble butterflies, adding a note of gaiety to their already colourful outfits.



The Women of Xunbu

(by Chan Yat Nin)

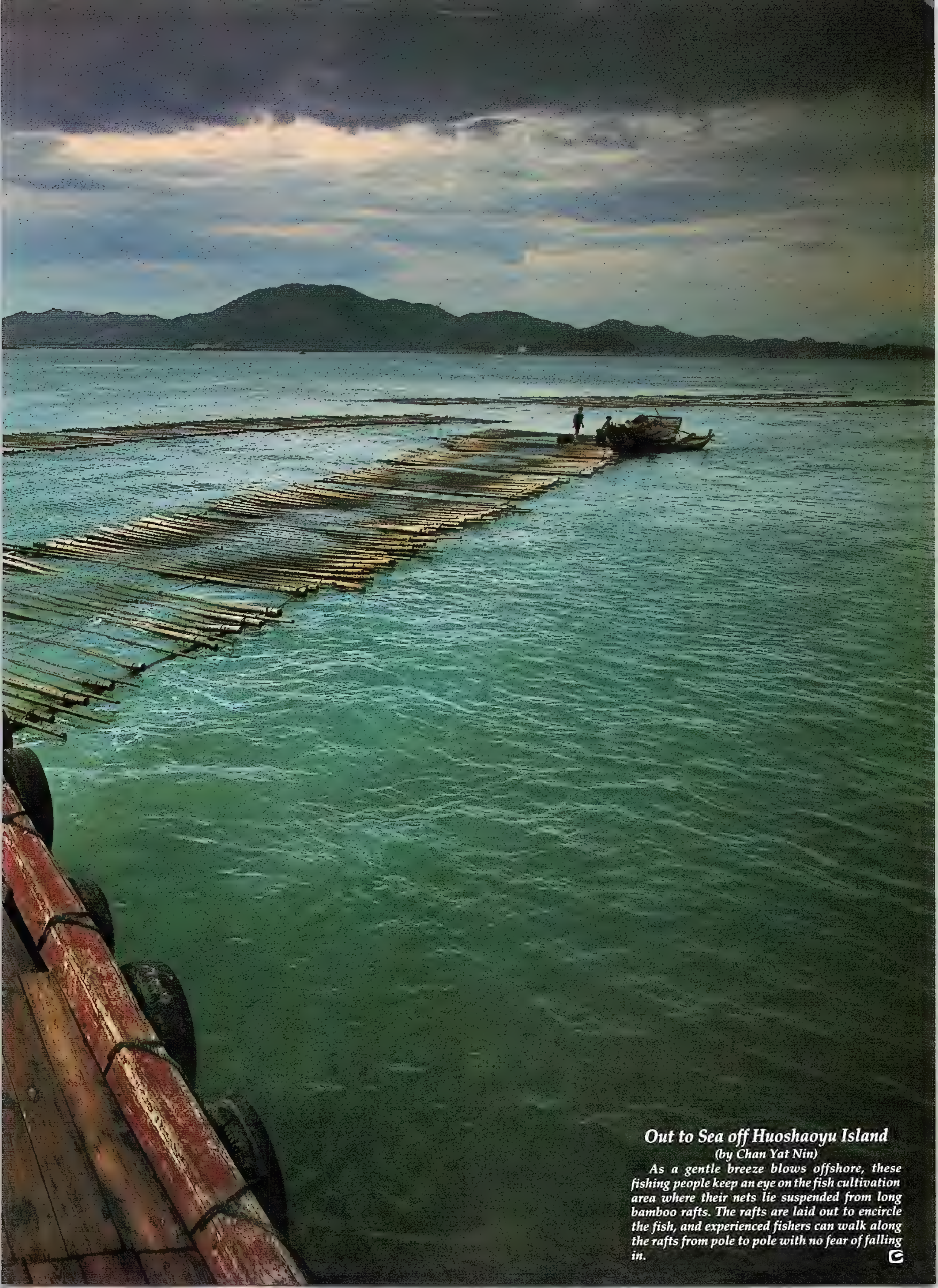
The women in the town of Xunbu near Quanzhou decorate their hair with flowers and other objects such as fish-shaped combs, reflecting their close ties to nature and the sea.



The Phoenix Symbolism of the She Women

(by Chapman Lee)

Women of the She nationality have perhaps the most unusual hairstyles of any group in Fujian. The She people believe that they are descendants of a legendary emperor and princess, and as phoenixes are traditionally associated with royalty, the women wear what they call "phoenix hairstyles" and "phoenix clothing".

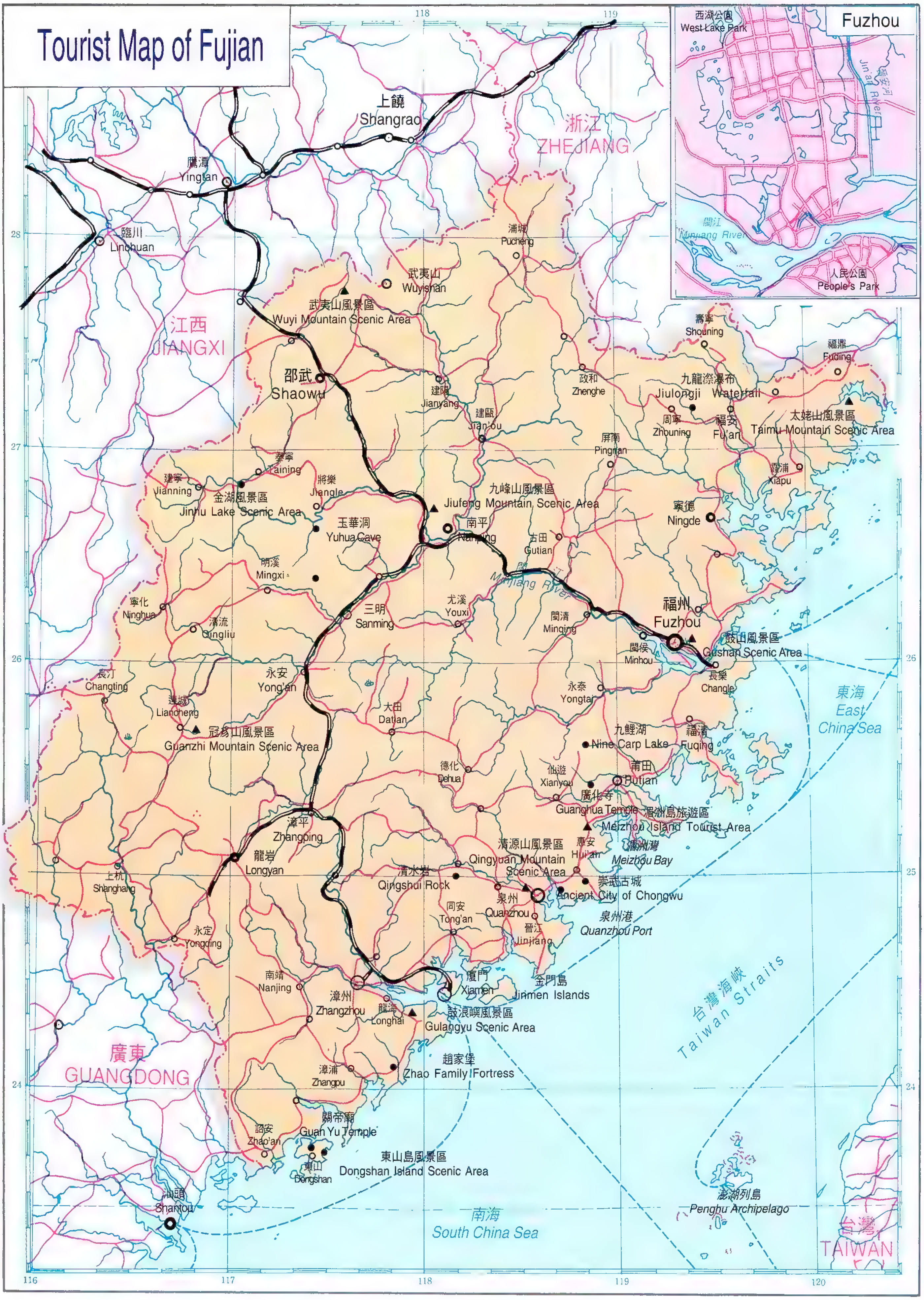


Out to Sea off Huoshaoyu Island

(by Chan Yat Nin)

As a gentle breeze blows offshore, these fishing people keep an eye on the fish cultivation area where their nets lie suspended from long bamboo rafts. The rafts are laid out to encircle the fish, and experienced fishers can walk along the rafts from pole to pole with no fear of falling in.

Tourist Map of Fujian



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West Lake Park
閩江
Minjiang River
人民公園
People's Park
Jin'an River
上饒
Shangrao
鷹潭
Yingtan
臨川
Linchuan
浙江
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Yuhua Cave
南平
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Gutian
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莆田
Putian
廣化寺
Guanghua Temple
湄洲島旅遊區
Meizhou Island Tourist Area
漳平
Zhangping
清源山風景區
Qingyuan Mountain Scenic Area
惠安
Hui'an
湄洲灣
Meizhou Bay
龍岩
Longyan
清水岩
Qingshui Rock
崇武古城
Ancient City of Chongwu
上杭
Shanghang
泉州
Quanzhou
同安
Tong'an
晉江
Jinjiang
泉州港
Quanzhou Port
永定
Yongding
南靖
Nanjing
廈門
Xiamen
金門島
Jinmen Islands
漳州
Zhangzhou
龍海
Longhai
鼓浪嶼風景區
Gulangyu Scenic Area
台灣海峽
Taiwan Straits
廣東
GUANGDONG
漳浦
Zhangpu
趙家堡
Zhao Family Fortress
關帝廟
Guan Yu Temple
詔安
Zhao'an
東山島風景區
Dongshan Island Scenic Area
東山
Dongshan
汕頭
Shantou
南海
South China Sea
澎湖列島
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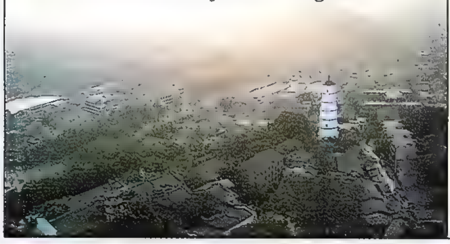


Fuzhou at sunrise (by Chen Yangkun)

A Tourist Guide to Fujian

ARTICLE BY ZI LIAOSHI

China's southeastern province of Fujian stands just opposite Taiwan across the Taiwan Straits. Fujian is a hilly province, with mountains and hilly land covering about 90% of its total area. Its coastline stretches for 3,000 kilometres, providing many harbours, ports and beaches. Fujian's fantastic scenery and long history bring countless Chinese and foreign tourists here every year.

Fuzhou

Visitors to Fujian usually start their trip in Fuzhou or Xiamen (Amoy). There are direct and regular flights to both these places from Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou. Express buses also connect Fuzhou with Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, is an ancient city with a long cultural background. It is situated at the lower reaches of the Minjiang River and on the edge of the Fuzhou Plain. It is said that in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) banyan trees were planted all over the city, creating lovely shaded streets and thereby giving it the name Rongcheng (City of Banyans).

There are three hills in Fuzhou called Pingshan, Yushan and Wushan, and two pagodas named Baita and Wuta which stand at the foot of Yushan and Wushan, facing each other. These ancient buildings and the natural beauty of the hills make Fuzhou a tranquil and charming place. The most famous scenic spots here are Gushan (Drum Mountain) and Xihu (West Lake).

Gushan Mountain, located in Fuzhou's eastern suburbs, rises over 900 metres above sea level. On its summit is a huge rock which looks like a drum (*gu*), thus the name. It is also said that during storms the caves in the mountain produce echoes which sound like drumbeats. Gushan Mountain has more than 100 scenic spots including caves, rocks, springs and temples. The most well-known of them is Yongquan Temple, which has an impressive collection of Buddhist scriptures and printing plates. Other attractions in the temple are Tianwang (Heavenly King) Hall, Daxiong Hall, Yuantong Hall, the Bell Tower, the Drum Tower, Fatang (Dharma) Hall, the Sutra Library, a two-ton bell carved with the *Diamond Sutra*, and an extremely large copper pot which, it is said, can cook food for a thousand people. On the cliff to the east of the temple are many stone carvings which are regarded as some of Fujian's most valuable calligraphic art. A bus runs from downtown Fuzhou to Gushan.

West Lake is in the northwestern part of the city and has been a place of interest since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The lake is dotted with several islets, on which towers and pavilions are faintly visible behind trees and bamboo groves. In this area, one can visit Kaihua Temple built during the Tang Dynasty, Wanzai Hall from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and Guizhai Study where Lin Zexu, a Qing-dynasty official who fought against the British during the Opium War, once studied. There is also a provincial museum, a flower garden, an exhibition hall and

This temple situated in Yongtai County is commonly called "A Piece of Tile" because the cave covers the temple like a huge rounded Chinese roof tile (by Han Jing).

Fuzhou's West Lake is a quiet refuge for residents of this busy city (by Ding Feng).

This arch at the entrance of Fuzhou's ancient-style street adds an air of serene beauty to the city's commercial district (by Ding Feng).

This Guanyin statue is inside Gushan's Yongquan Temple, one of the largest Buddhist temples in Fujian (by Chan Yat Nin).

In the Lin Zexu Memorial Hall is a statue of the great patriot (by Xie Guanghui).

a zoo. The No. 1, 12 and 29 buses go to West Lake.

Another popular activity in Fuzhou is cruising down the Minjiang River. The largest river in Fujian, the Minjiang originates in the Wuyi Mountain Range and flows past Fuzhou at its lower reaches. Along the river there are many scenic spots and historical places such as the Jinshan Temple Pagoda, Jiangxin (River Centre) Park, Luoxing Pagoda and Mount Qingzhi Baidong. Passenger ships go from Fuzhou to Nanping and Mawei. There is a pleasure-boat called the *Shuishang Leyuan* that runs between Fuzhou and the mouth of the Minjiang River, and gives tourists an excellent view of the scenery along the river.

Fuzhou is the hometown of national hero Lin Zexu. Besides his Guizhai Study mentioned above, there are four other historical places related to him: his birthplace — the Lin Family Residence on Mount Pingshan; his former residence on Wenzao Road downtown; the Lin Zexu Memorial Hall on Aomen Road downtown, where his calligraphy, couplets, diaries, letters, poems and manuscripts are on display, and his tomb at the foot of Mount Jinshi (Golden Lion) in Ma'an Village located in Fuzhou's northern suburbs.

Northern Fujian

To reach northern Fujian, the most convenient way is to take a train along the Laizhou-Fuzhou line to Nanping, located in the heart of the northern part of the province.

Northern Fujian was one of the cultural centres of the Yue State at the end of the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 B.C.). The Wuyi Mountain Range is at the northernmost border with Jiangxi, and is one of China's major State-designated scenic areas with a great deal to see and do (refer to the main article in this issue for further information). In addition to Wuyi, the other places of interest in northern Fujian are Nanping City, Shangshu (Minister) Mansion and Jinhu (Golden Lake) in Taining County and Yuhua Cave in Jiangle County.

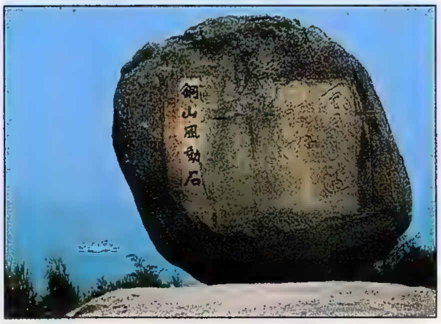
Mount Mangdang stands at 1,363 metres in the western suburbs of Nanping City, about ten kilometres downtown. Stretching over 40 kilometres and covered with dense forests, it is an ideal place for a summer holiday. There are six scenic areas on Mount Mangdang where one can see sights such as rare pine forests and 1,333 hectares of azaleas on the summit, a few dozen strangely-shaped rocks and ancient mountain paths connecting Fujian and Jiangxi. The primeval forests here are home to some 600 rare species of plant life, including the "king" of Chinese fir trees and thousand-year-old camphor trees. A bus takes visitors to the top of the mountain.

Shangshu (Minister's) Mansion is located in Taining County. It was once the mansion of Li Chunye, a Minister of War in the Ming Dynasty, and was built during the reign of Emperor Wanli in 1616. A well-preserved example of Ming-dynasty architecture, it covers an area of 6,000 square metres and has five main halls and eight side buildings, with a total of 120 rooms, all accessible through five gates. Exquisite carvings and paintings of landscapes, figures, flowers and birds are on view all over the mansion. It has recently been taken over and re-opened as the Taining County Museum, and also has a hall of wax figures from the Ming Dynasty, a cultural relics exhibition and an exhibition of folk customs. To the north of Shangshu Mansion is the newly built Shangshu Street, which has 18 Ming-style buildings. In this tourist street, visitors can try on Ming-style dresses and sit in Ming-style sedan chairs, giving them a glimpse into life during the Ming Dynasty in this ancient town.

Jinhu (Golden Lake) lies on the upper reaches of the Jinxi River in Taining County about 4.5 kilometres from the county town. Covering an area of 3,600 hectares, this man-made lake is famous for its green mountains, clear waters, strangely-shaped rocks, caves and peaks. Tourists can row boats on the lake and have wonderful views of the strange peaks, steep cliffs and waterfalls. Around the lake are several hills formed by karst topography. Tourists can also hire boats of all kinds and go out on the lake. A highway has been built between the town of Taining and Golden Lake, a suspension bridge crosses the lake and a mountain villa, Fengdong Shanzhuang, has been constructed in the main scenic area.

Yuhua (Jade Flower) Cave sits at the foot of Mount Tianjie, seven kilometres to the south of Jiangle County Town. The cave complex extends for five kilometres and its main cave is 2.5 kilometres long. The longest and largest limestone cave in Fujian, it has two passageways, three hidden rivers, six stone halls, over 100 stalagmites and many stone carvings dating back to the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). The well-known geographer and traveller Xu Xiake from the Ming Dynasty once came to Yuhua Cave and called it the "Number One Cave in the Mountains of Fujian".

Dongshan County's "Wind Shaking Rock" (by Xie Guanghui)



Quanzhou's mosque is the first mosque of this kind ever built in China. From its grand scale one can only imagine how imposing it once looked (by Ma Yiu Chun).

This place in Putian called Mulanbei has an ancient hydraulic project that is still in use today (by Chan Yat Nin).

Southeastern Fujian

To the south of Fuzhou are the fertile regions of central and southern Fujian. The Fuzhou-Xiamen Highway follows the coastline and leads to Putian, Quanzhou, Zhangzhou and Xiamen. The cities and towns in this coastal area, with its clusters of islands and abundant resources, are well-known as the hometowns of overseas Chinese. For information on Meizhou Island and the coastal cities of Quanzhou and Xiamen please see our main articles.

Putian City is situated about mid-way between Fuzhou and Quanzhou. Because of its production of lichees it is also known as "Lichee City". The main places of interest in the city are Guanghua Temple, one of the ten most important scenic spots in Fujian; Jiuli (Nine Carp) Lake, and Meizhou Island, home of Mazu — Goddess of the Sea.

Guanghua Temple sits at the foot of Mount Fenghuang (also known as Mount Nanshan), two kilometres to the southwest of downtown Putian, and is one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in the province. The temple was first built during the Southern Dynasties in 558 and rebuilt in 1875. It covers an area of 16,000 square metres and has a stone wall one kilometre long. The temple has a unique architectural style, its design one of perfect harmony and classic beauty. Visitors to the temple can also learn something about the life of the monks and their Buddhist activities.

Jiuli Lake is on the top of the mountains inside Heling Pass, northwest of Putian. Famous for its caves, waterfalls and rocks, the lake is just as spectacular as Wuyi Mountain and Yuhua Cave.

Jiuli Lake is a picturesque natural lake surrounded by green trees, springs and rocks. The most interesting sights are the nine waterfalls which are located at the lower end of the lake, where the altitude drops to 432 metres. Visitors can descend along a flight of stone steps to the Waterfall Viewing Pavilion, from where one has an excellent view of the nine waterfalls.

At the upper end of the lake there are more than 100 caves of different shapes and sizes. Carvings of poems and verses can be found on the rocks and cliffs, written by scholars and well-known historical figures who visited the lake. A bus goes to the lake from Xianyou County town.

In the southeastern part of Fujian on the lower reaches of the Jiulong River is the **Zhangzhou Tourist Area**. The city of Zhangzhou is known as a "Town of Flowers and Fruits" for its many local products like narcissus flowers, bananas, lichees and longan fruit. Its main places of interest include Nanshan (South Hill) Temple, Mumian Nunnery, Baihua (Hundred Flower) Village, the Zhao Family Fortress in Songcheng, the Ancient City of Chongwu and the Ancient Town of Tongshan.

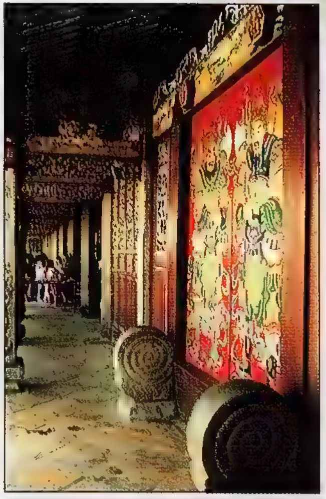
Nanshan Temple is at the foot of Mount Danxia in the southern suburbs of Zhangzhou. This large Buddhist temple was built 1,200 years ago in the Southern Dynasties. Inside the Buddhist Sutra Library is a Buddha statue carved out of a solid piece of white marble, donated by an overseas Chinese from Burma during the Qing Dynasty in 1904. A large bronze bell is housed in the temple's Mahavira Hall which weighs 600 kilos and was cast in the Yuan Dynasty.

The Zhao Family Fortress in Songcheng, also called the Zhao Family Town, is situated in Xixiang in Zhangpu County, about 90 kilometres south of Zhangzhou. The fortress was built at the end of the Song Dynasty in 1279 when Zhao Ruohe, a relative of the imperial family, fled and came here to live in seclusion. It was expanded in 1600 and has two enclosing walls, an inner wall and an outer wall. In the inner part is a three-storey building called Wanbi Chamber. Its ground floor is connected with another two-storey building, and there is a tunnel in the courtyard leading to the outside of the fortress. This combination residence-fortress is now open as a museum showcasing Song-dynasty history.

The Ancient City of Chongwu is on Chongwu Peninsula in Hui'an County, just to the northeast of Quanzhou. The city was built in 1387 in the Ming Dynasty for the purpose of resisting attacks by Japanese pirates. Constructed of granite, the city wall is 2,455 metres long, seven metres high and has 1,304 battlements and four gates. This complete defence system is the most well-preserved of China's three stone-walled cities. The folk customs around Chongwu are very

This elegant statue of Mazu stands on Meizhou Island's tallest peak (by Chan Yat Nin).

Outside of Shishi City is the ancient Gusao (Sisters-in-Law) Pagoda (by Chen Shizhe).



Longhai's Baiqiao Temple has exceptionally beautiful painted door gods (by Xie Guanghui).

During the Southern Song Dynasty the imperial family hid out in this fortress belonging to the Zhang family in Zhangpu (by Xie Guanghui).

The Ancient City of Chongwu has been standing in Hui'an County for centuries (by Han Jing).

unique, and the women wear traditional-style clothing.

The Ancient Town of Tongshan is in Dongshan County, located 146 kilometres south of Zhangzhou and originally called Tongshan Island. In 1387 during the Ming Dynasty, a stone city was constructed here to resist attacks by Japanese pirates. This ancient town has been renovated and boasts a temple to Guan Yu (a general in the Three Kingdoms period) with exquisite wood and stone carvings. A huge rock stands not far from the temple, facing the sea. It is about 4.5 metres in diameter and weighs 200 tons. With only a few inches of it touching the ground, it shakes in the strong wind but never falls over, thus it is called the Wind Shaking Rock.

Mount Jiuxian rises to the northwest of the ancient town, where Qi Jiguang and Zheng Chenggong, two well-known Ming generals who succeeded in resisting attacks by Japanese pirates, once camped with their troops. On the summit is a drilling platform used by Zheng Chenggong to train his navy.

Northeastern Fujian

If you travel north by bus from Fuzhou you will reach the small city of Ningde, a good jumping-off point for sightseeing in northeastern Fujian. The major places of interest here are Zhiti Temple in Ningde City, Mount Taimu in Fuding County, Jiulongji (Nine Dragon) Waterfall in Zhouning County and Yuanyang (Mandarin Duck) Stream in Pingnan County.

Zhiti Temple sits atop Mount Huotong about 40 kilometres northwest of Ningde County Town. Mount Huotong is well-known Taoist mountain and its cave is considered one of the most important caves in the religion, thus it is also called Huotong Cave. Zhiti Temple, first built in 971 during the Northern Song Dynasty, is one of the major Buddhist temples in the country. It consists of Mahavira Hall, Devaraja Hall, Master's Hall, Jialan Hall, and a Buddhist Sutra Library. It was once a place for performing Buddhist rites and still houses a few rare objects, such as the 1,000 iron Buddha figures donated by the Ming emperor Yongle and the *Sutra of Adornment of Buddha* given by Emperor Wanli, also of the Ming Dynasty. There is a bus that runs to Zhiti Temple from Fuding.

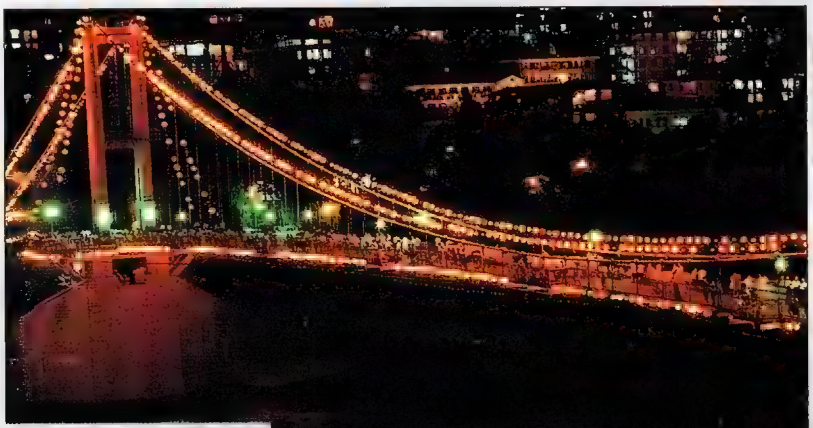
Mount Taimu is 45 kilometres south of Fuding and covers an area of 60 square kilometres. Facing the sea on both sides, it is a splendid tourist area which combines mountain, sea and man-made sceneries. Its main peak, Moxiao Peak, is 1,081 metres high above sea level. The most interesting sights on Mount Taimu are unusually-shaped rocks, strange caves, perilous peaks and drifting mists. On the mountain are the ruins of Guoxing Temple built in the Tang Dynasty; the Yuhu thatched hall of Zhu Xi, a philosopher and educator of the Song Dynasty, and Xuanji Cave where Zhu Xi lived in seclusion. There are buses to Mount Taimu from Fuding.

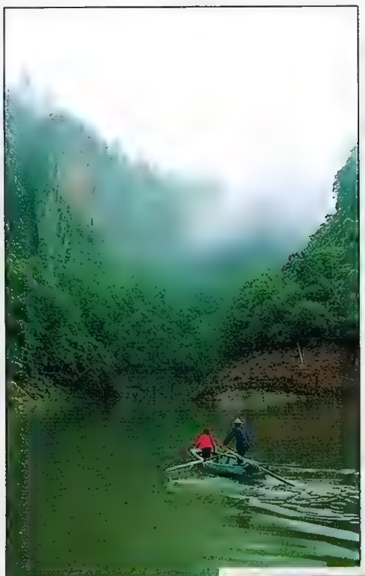
Jiulongji Waterfall, located 11 kilometres southeast of Zhouning County Seat, actually consists of 13 waterfalls. The second fall is the most spectacular, 46 metres high and 76 metres wide, although during the flood season it can be as much as 80 metres wide. The water roars down and creates a thin mist which rises up 100 to 200 metres. The waterfalls continue one after another, stretching for several hundred metres.

Yuanyang Stream is located 80 kilometres northeast of Pingnan County Town. Deep in the mountains and forests, it is an ideal place for mandarin ducks to live. Every autumn and winter, nearly a thousand mandarin ducks migrate here from Northeast China, Korea, Japan and Siberia to spend the winter. The only protected zone for mandarin ducks in China, there are also some 200 monkeys plus other rare birds and animals living here. Various kinds of subtropical plants can also be found here, making it a natural zoological and botanical garden.

Photo buffs are a common sight at Wuyi Mountain, with each one trying to get the perfect shot of the rolling "sea of clouds" (by Zheng Youyu).

At the foot of Jiufeng Peak in the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area is the Jiufeng Chain Bridge, part of a major roadway up the mountain (by Chan Yat Nin).





Boating on Jinhu Lake in Taining (by Han Jing)

This ancient staircase at Mount Mangdang was built with funds donated by prominent families, who also had stone tablets erected in their memory (by Chan Yat Nin).

Yuhua Cave in Jiangle County is the largest karst cave in Fujian (by Han Jing).

Western Fujian

To reach this part of the province, take a train from Fuzhou to Longyan City in the southwest. Western Fujian is an area of forests and mountains, and the main scenic spots include Mount Guanzhi in Liancheng County, Shibi Village — an ancestral place of the Hakka in Ninghua County, and the Hakka fortified earthen houses in Yongding County.

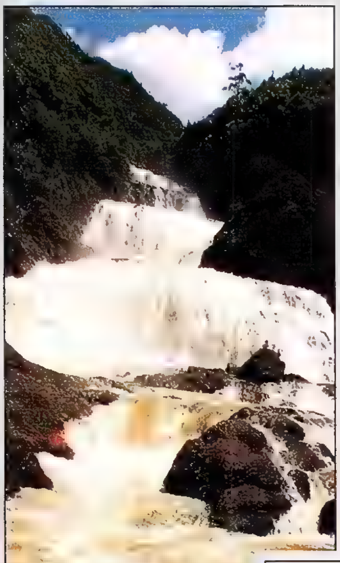
Mount Guanzhi, situated 1.5 kilometres east of Liancheng County Town, is also known as Mount Lianfeng (Lotus Peak). One of the ten best tourist regions in Fujian, the mountain's scenic area of 20 square kilometres encompasses such places of interest as Banyun (Half Cloud) Pavilion, Mount Shimen, Yixiantian (A Line of Sky) and Shouxing (Longevity) Rock. Shimen Lake bordering the main peak of Mount Guanzhi is five kilometres long. Tourists can rent boats and row around the lake to see the scenery. Up on the top of Wulao Peak one has a panoramic view of the surrounding hills and water. Walking around the mountain, one can see over 40 cliff carvings done by noteworthy historical figures. A bus runs between Liancheng County and Mount Guanzhi.

Shibi Village is an ancestral home of the Hakka people and is located in a basin surrounded by mountains, 25 kilometres from Ninghua County near the border with Jiangxi. Many descendants of historical Hakka figures still live here, such as Jiang Ziya — Prime Minister of the Zhou Dynasty, Li Shimin — Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, the Tang poet Zhang Jiuling and General Yang Ye of the Northern Song. Their family trees are well kept and the family temples still exist. At Shibi Village, you can also visit the Hakka Folk Custom Museum in the county seat of Ninghua, where materials and pictures showing Hakka history, culture, customs, and traditional foods are on display. Sanming City just north of Yong'an has recently opened a special tourist route to the ancestral place of the Hakka, and a bus goes to Ninghua County from Sanming City.

Hakka Fortified Earthen Houses are concentrated in Yongding County, located near the border of Guangdong. They are round, tall structures usually consisting of two or more concentric circles. The walls are made of a mixture of raw earth, lime, cooked glutinous rice and brown sugar, with bamboo and wooden strips as framework. They are mostly four or five-storey structures and were built to withstand strong winds and earthquakes, therefore unlike other types of buildings, they are still standing after many years. They also serve a defensive purpose: once the gate is closed, people inside can survive for one or two years without having to go out, since plenty of grain and water are stored in the compound. These buildings are of great interest to both Chinese and foreign scholars.

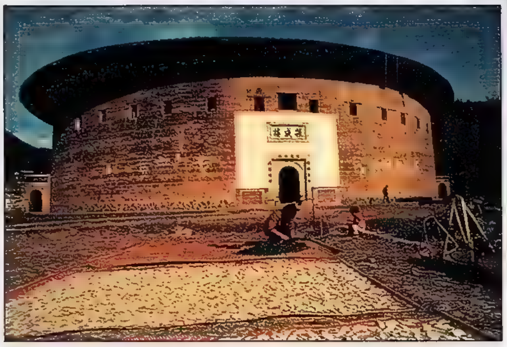
Besides the round buildings, there are two other types of Hakka buildings in Yongding: square buildings and Wufeng (Five Phoenix) buildings. The Chengqi Building in Guzhu Village is the largest round building; the round Zhencheng Building in Hongkeng Village is famous for its colourful decorations; Yijing Building in Gaobei Village is representative of square buildings; and Yonglongchang Building in Fushi Village is a magnificent Wufeng structure. For more information on Hakka villages in Western Fujian, please see our main article.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang



A popular sight in Zhouning County is the Jiulongji Waterfall, which rushes down the rocks at 13 different levels and stretches for several hundred metres (by Han Jing).

The round earthen buildings of the Hakka people are unique to this region (by Liu Guoliang).



Mount Guangzhi in Liancheng County got its name from the fact that it looks like a crown (**guan**) *(by Li Shixiong).*

Taimu Mountain's craggy peaks poke up through the clouds (by Shi Yongping).

Chi'an Village in Xiapu County has become a sacred site for Japanese Buddhists, as this is where a famous Japanese monk landed when he came to China during the Tang Dynasty to collect scriptures in Chang'an (present-day Xi'an in Shaanxi) (by Han Jing).

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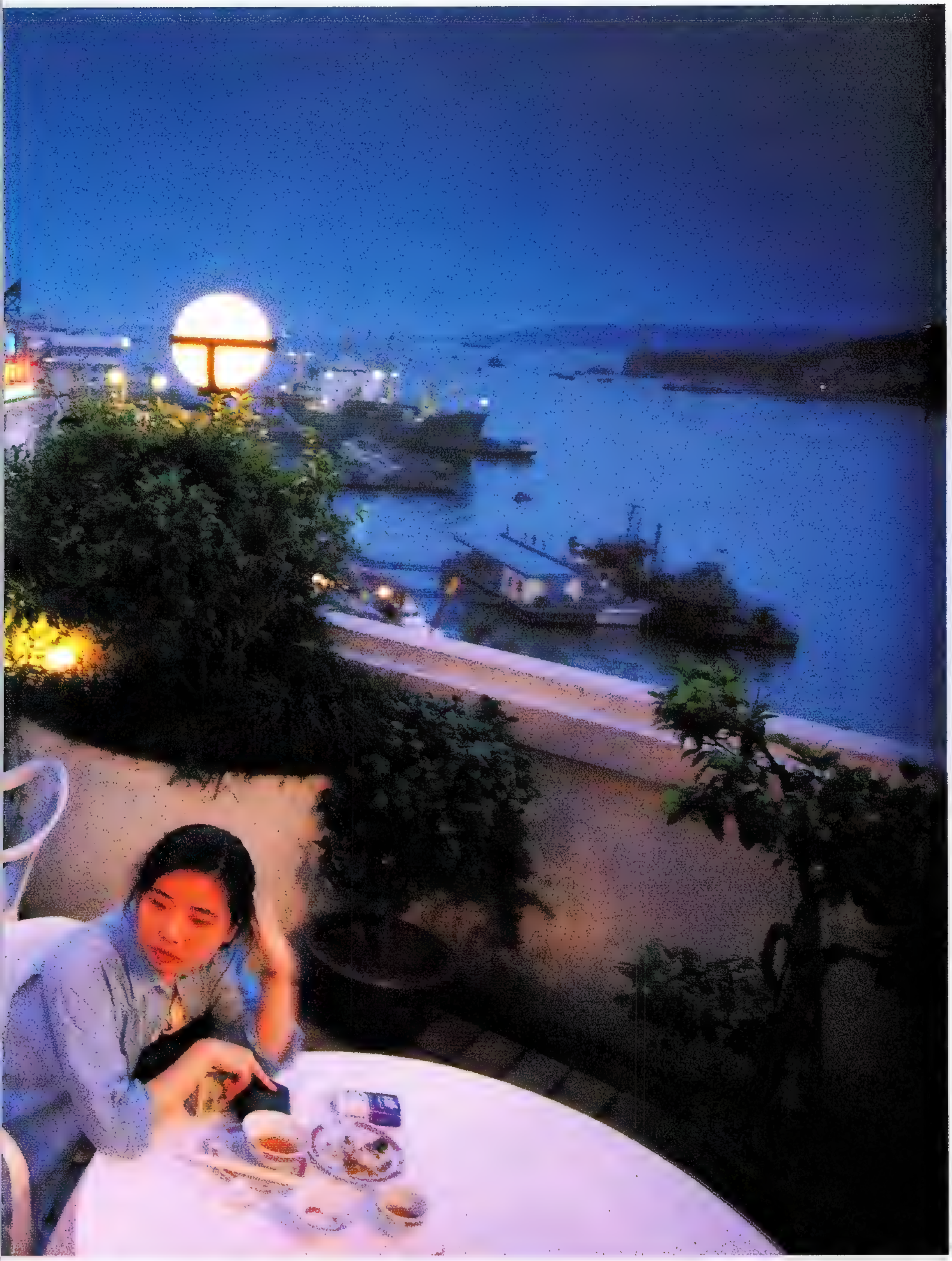
Where Old Meets New: The

The stars and sea are constant companions of diners at the Lujiang Hotel's rooftop restaurant.



Coastal City of Xiamen

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN   ARTICLE BY SHU TING

Advertising billboards like this one for a cosmetic company line the streets of Xiamen (by Li Shixiong).

Fast-food restaurants have been gaining popularity in Xiamen in recent years (by Xie Guanghui).

Newly built villas in the Huli Industrial Development Zone

Picture-perfect scenery of mountains and sea, a pleasant climate, year-round vegetable and fruit supplies, and seafood on sale at every street corner — where else can one find a place complete with all these amenities? While Beijing and Shanghai are becoming increasingly crowded, Guangzhou a bit too noisy and life in Shenzhen too hectic, the atmosphere in Xiamen is considerably more congenial.

The place is just the right size for the city's 600,000 residents, who relish leisure activities such as marvelling at the many blossoming flame trees *(Delonix regia)*, taking in an opera at the local theatre, or sunbathing on the beaches while sea gulls fly overhead and choir music from a church or the sound of a piano drifts past. The natural beauty of Xiamen is accentuated by an ever-present religious ambience, and people's attitudes here are a mixture of traditional values and imported ideas and life styles from Taiwan, Hong Kong and overseas. Although changes are occurring, Xiamen remains a place of classic charm and settled repose.

Modernization Changing the Face of Xiamen

Xiamen, previously known to foreigners as Amoy, has in recent years embarked on a course of high-speed growth starting with the establishment of the Huli Indus-

This bridge links Xiamen's urban area of Lusi Isle to the mainland (by Hua Xiaorui).

Pilgrims from Taiwan are frequent visitors to Xiamen (by Xie Guanghui).

From Riguang Rock on Gulanyu Islet, one has a panoramic view of Xiamen, with its ancient and modern architecture standing side by side.

trial Development Zone in the northwestern part of Xiamen Island. So far more than 1,000 joint ventures, co-operative enterprises with Chinese and foreign investors and wholly-owned foreign firms have been set up in the zone. Huamei and two other giant Xiamen companies are among the nation's top 500 enterprises. Looking at this booming city today, it is difficult to imagine that a little more than a decade ago living conditions on this island were so harsh that the mere thought of settling here would send shivers down one's spine.

Now row upon row of high-rise buildings dot the landscape, and the streets and highways seem a bit too narrow for the heavy traffic. The eight-storey Lujiang Hotel used to be the city's tallest; today it is dwarfed by a host of 30-floor high-rises, although the building's classical beauty has not diminished. The Yuping Plaza has announced a plan to build a parking lot large enough for 500 cars — obviously its managers have foreseen the prospect of a modern city crisscrossed by expressways.

Once one of China's five port cities, Xiamen has now grown into a metropolis with well-developed finance, commerce, tourism, science and technology. Its airport, which operates dozens of airlines, is one of the five largest in China, and its harbour boasts eight berths for 10,000-tonners. As if all this were not enough, Xiamen

This antique shop offers a wide variety of objects d'art (by Xie Guanghui).

People in southern Fujian are avid tea-drinkers — even in a modern boutique such as this, tea sets are an indispensable part of life (by Xie Guanghui).

Professional wedding portraits are a must for newlyweds (by Xie Guanghui).

is trying to entice prospective overseas investors by converting 80 square kilometres of vegetable gardens in Haicang into a new development zone.

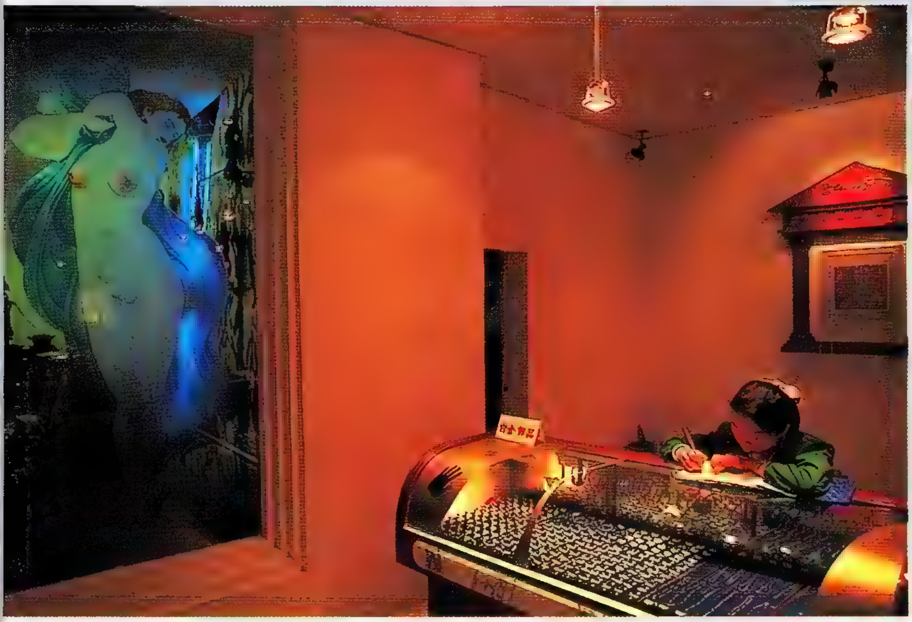
Many cities in China have a street named after Sun Zhongshan (Sun Yat-sen), and Xiamen is no exception. Zhongshan Road here is a microcosm of this prospering seaboard city; it is flanked by stores, and as the land there is so valuable, not a single building is used for residential purposes. These stores are constantly changing their façades in a bid to attract customers and sell their many different products. Under the neon lights, Xiamen's famous local delicacies looked so enticing they made my mouth water.

Apartment buildings are continually springing up in the new residential quarters. However, many local dwellers prefer to remain in simple abodes in the old streets, where long linking porches form a unique sight. Zhongshan Road desperately needs widening, what with the overflowing crowds and traffic jams, but city planners are at a loss as to how to get the reluctant dwellers in the old neighbourhood to move to new residential quarters.

In the beginning of this year, the municipal government tore down the old Xiahe Road to make way for a new 50-metre-wide street. Most of the 40,000 residents have been relocated, and soon the city will be packed with tall buildings and the old days when the residents could sit leisurely sipping tea in a rattan chair on their veranda will be no more.

Xiamen's booming economy has attracted thousands of workers from other provinces. After a hard day's work, there is nothing more pleasant than sitting by the seaside.

This "scholar" is actually advertising for a new product said to improve children's intelligence and progress in school (by Xie Guanghui).



Shops selling jewellery and gold are quite common in Xiamen (by Xie Guanghui).

The Unrivalled South Putuo Temple

South Putuo Temple, situated in the southern part of Xiamen, is a popular place for tourists to visit. The temple's Heavenly King Hall, the main prayer hall, the Hall of Great Compassion and the Shrine of Buddhist Scriptures are all graced with painted brackets and upturned eaves. It does not look very different from other temples in China but, located on a mountain overlooking the vast ocean, it has a scenic appeal that is beyond compare.

Its rare artifacts include four giant stone turtles lying on the right side of the front gate, a rock with holes in the shape of a Chinese ancient coin, a large Song-dynasty bronze bell and a white porcelain sculpture of Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy. The temple also houses the South Fujian Buddhist Institute, where more than 100 students are enrolled in undergraduate courses.

On the other side of the island and opposite the temple's Hall of Great Compassion is the solid and seemingly impregnable Huli Hill Fortress, built of sand and clay which is held together with camphor tree juice, lime and glutinous rice. During its heyday in the Opium War the fort had more than 100 cannons. Now only a German-made Krupp cannon which cost 50,000 taels of silver to build remains intact on the eastern platform. Weighing 60 tons, measuring 14 metres long and with a muzzle big enough for a person to fit inside, it is the only well-preserved coastal cannon in China.

Students from other provinces help each other out in their daily chores (by Xie Guanghui).

This university student sells hammocks part-time.

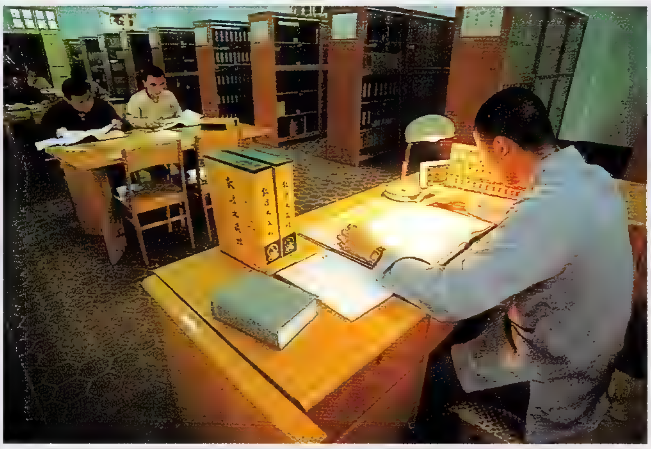
Parents watch their children take part in an extra-curricular dance class at the Children's Palace (by Xie Guanghui).

Sprawling between South Putuo Temple and the Huli Hill Fortress, Xiamen University provides the special economic zone with a constant supply of talent in the fields of technology and science. It seems, however, that this institution of higher learning has also been swept up in the nation's recent trend towards a market economy. The long street that leads to the front gate of the university is crowded with restaurants, beauty parlours, supermarkets and garment shops. The students often work part-time jobs to make extra money, and it is not uncommon to see students soliciting patrons in the street using a billboard that advertises themselves as private tutors for primary and middle school students. Most of the professors, however, are still immersed in teaching and research; only when they go grocery shopping do they feel that their purses are a bit too slender.

Cutting across the campus and climbing along the Jiulong (Nine Dragon) Path that winds its way up a mountain, one reaches the summit of Wulao (Five Old Men) Peak, perched high above the vast wind-swept ocean below. Beyond the peak one can see a smudge of strangely-shaped rocky mountains, each bearing an interesting

◄ *Students at Xiamen University take time out to relax.*

▼ *Every day Xiamen's elderly inhabitants come to this park to exercise (by Xie Guanghui).*



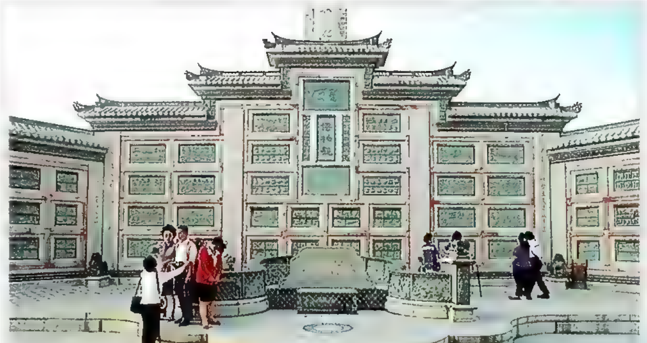
This monk is studying at the South Fujian Buddhist Institute, situated in South Putuo Temple.

name like "Drunken Celestial Being" or "Tiger Stream", hence the name, Wanshi (Ten Thousand Rock) Hill. Numerous tropical and subtropical plants cover the mountains here and include "living fossils" such as gingko trees and over 100 species of bamboo.

From Remote Island to Bustling Peninsula

More than four decades ago the Xiamen people levelled a number of hillocks and, using only shoulder-poles and wheelbarrows, filled up the sea and built a 2,000-metre-long granite dyke to link their city with the mainland. In the ensuing half century this gigantic stone-and-spade project, which turned the former island into a peninsula, was the pride of the local people. Scholars and poets likened the dyke to a jade flute with numerous wind holes. Today, using reinforced concrete instead of granite, Xiamen has built the nation's first cross-ocean multi-lane highway bridge. Construction of a third thoroughfare, the suspension Haicang Bridge, will soon begin.

These stone carvings in Aoyuan Park are a combination of old and new: the right an ancient carving telling a story from the novel Romance of the Three Kingdoms, *while the one on the left depicts Mao Zedong giving a speech at Yan'an in Shaanxi Province.*



The elegant Mausoleum of Tan Kah-kee is situated in Jimei's Aoyuan Park.

The statue of Tak Kah-kee, the founder of the "school town" of Jimei, stands inside the complex.

In 1912, Mr. Tan Kah-kee, a well-known overseas Chinese turned tycoon, solicited funds and built a dozen schools in Xiamen's town of Jimei, as well as a science centre, a gymnasium, a library, a hospital and a navigation club. In a unique style dubbed "Tan's combination of Chinese and Western architecture", each building was made using three different materials: red brick, white stone and glazed tiles. The 15-storey Nanxun Building is the tallest, and has weathered the ravages of many a typhoon over the years. The town where these schools are located is a scenic wonderland, dotted with pavilions and towers. Beyond the long dyke sea gulls fly across a backdrop of blue sea and white sails. The scenery here has attracted an increasing number of tourists, and the sound of students reciting texts is often drowned out by street vendors hawking their wares.

The new Jimei University will open soon and will consist of nine colleges providing courses in navigation, aquaculture, finance and economics, teacher-training and other disciplines of learning. The school is expecting a large influx of students from

◀ A view of Jimei's coastline

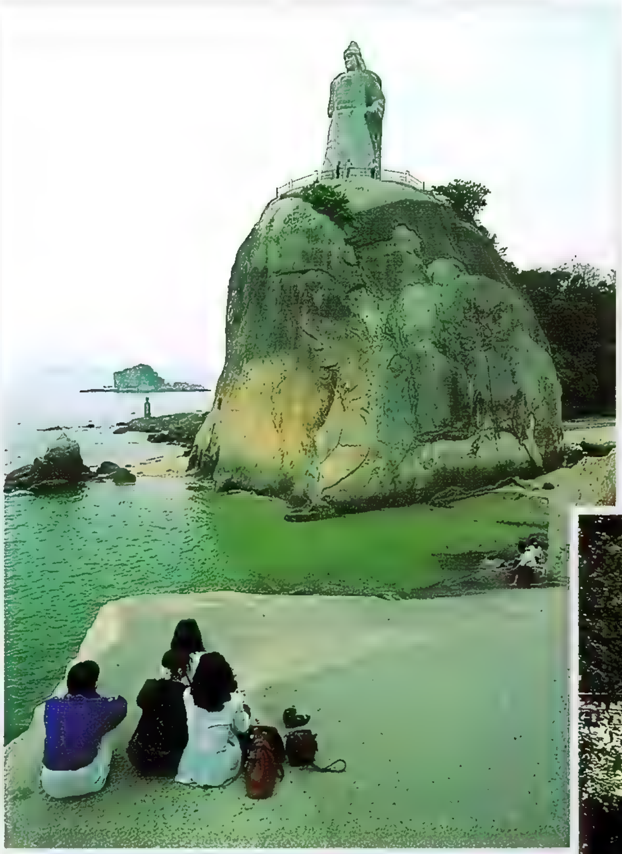
▼ Jimei's Nanxun Building combines both Oriental and Occidental styles of architecture.

This platform outside of the ancient Yanping Fort is where Zheng Chenggong (Koxinga) reviewed his naval forces (by Xie Guanghui).

Southeast Asia. Along with Xiamen University, it is bound to become a major educational centre for Fujian and all of southern China.

No trip to Xiamen is complete without a visit to the Mausoleum of Tan Kah-kee, built on a small isle called Aoyuan (Turtle Park). Building the mausoleum here was no mean feat, and it took more than four years for the project to be completed. The relief sculptures on the structure's stone railings are of particular artistic value. Decorated with images of plants, trees and birds, the sculptures around the foundation portray — in a way typical of the Hui'an style of stone carving — historical events and people from all walks of life.

Below the monument to Tan there is a multi-eaved nine-ridge roofed stone pavilion. A huge stone screen erected between these two structures is carved with relief sculptures depicting the life of this great patriot. His tomb is topped with a slab of blue stone in the shape of a tortoise shell, which is polished until it is as shiny as a mirror. Flowers are planted in front of the tomb and beyond, the sea moans and groans non-stop, as if mourning the departure of this great man.



This statue of Zheng Chenggong looks out to sea off southeastern Gulangyu Islet.

On Gulangyu Islet there is a bronze sculpture depicting the story of how Zheng Chenggong defeated the Dutch invaders in Taiwan.

Lovers enjoy strolling around the gardens and villas of Gulangyu Islet.

On the Summit of Gulangyu

Gulangyu (Drum Wave Islet) is the largest of the eight major scenic spots in Xiamen. A platform is built atop Riguang (Sunlit) Rock, which at 93 metres is the highest point on the island. This was where the celebrated Ming-dynasty general Zheng Chenggong (Koxinga) (1624-1662) reviewed his navy force. Sunlit Rock provides a panoramic view of the city of Xiamen. It is also a good vantage point for watching the sunrise or sunset and the sea of clouds as they drift below. Telescopes have been intalled there for curious visitors who want a peek at the Jinmen Islands across the Taiwan Straits.

Below Sunlit Rock is the Shuzhuang (Bean Plantation) Garden. Built with an exquisite sense of beauty, the garden blends in harmoniously with the contours of the terrain and the seaside. The Nine-Bend Forty-Four Bridge is delicately poised above the water — walking on it is like treading on sea waves.

With its plentiful sunshine, water, flowers and seafood, Gulangyu is also home to many musicians and artists. The boys and girls walking in the street with musical scores in their hands or violins slung across their shoulders invariably belong to the local primary music school. Art school students often set up their easels in the street and sketch landscapes or portraits for passers-by. Exchanges with the outside music world are thriving, and the concert hall on the islet has received numerous visiting musicians and troupes from Hong Kong and foreign countries. Small wonder the islet's ferry pier is in the shape of a huge piano, and the islet is sometimes called "Piano Isle".

tern-style bungalows dot the hillsides of Gulangyu.

This beach next to Shuzhuang Garden is a popular place in the summer months.

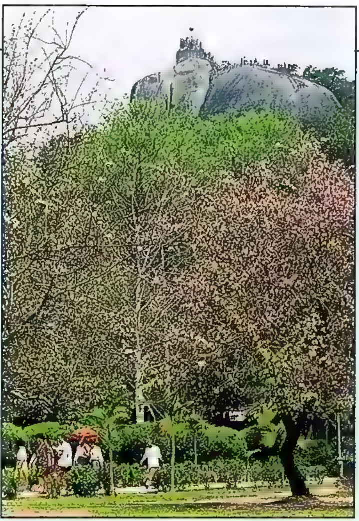
A newly paved ring road leads to Haoyue (Bright Moon) Garden where a statue of Zheng Chenggong stands on Fuding Rock, shaped like an inverted cauldron. Yuyuan Park is also located along this road. At the beach resort in the distance, restaurants and hotels do a roaring business. Many houses owned by overseas Chinese have been converted into hostels to serve visitors looking for an intimate family atmosphere. Tucked away in a dense forest about a hundred metres from the beach is a garden-like villa, whose name "Aluoha" smacks of Hawaii. A sequestered spring, green and dank with age, lies in the shadow of the dining room.

All vehicles, bicycles included, are banned on the islet, which only has an area of two square kilometres. Riding the tide of the islet's booming tourism, bamboo litters have found their way here from Sichuan. The litter bearers wear distinctive numbered uniforms which recall the old days, and await potential patrons at the ferry pier.

The local government has decided to build a six-kilometre-long single-track aerial railway. When it has been completed, this "flying dragon", as it is called in Chinese, will be continually whirring overhead. Will it disrupt the tranquil and unpolluted atmosphere of Gulangyu? And will the islanders win their battle to protect their natural habitat from the tidal wave of modernization? If this is the future of all Xiamen, I for one wish them luck.

Translated by Ling Yuan

Discovering Xiamen: A Garden on the Sea



Riguang Rock, the highest point on Gulangyu Islet (by Chan Yat Nin)

Praying at South Putuo Temple (by Chan Yat Nin)

Xiamen, an open port city on China's eastern coast, was designated a Special Economic Zone in 1980. Originally an island, two dykes were built in 1955 which turned Xiamen Island into a peninsula. Besides its economic importance, Xiamen is also known as a "Garden on the Sea" and tourist mecca for its pleasant climate and picturesque scenery.

Apart from Fuzhou, Xiamen provides another entryway for visitors arriving in Fujian Province by sea, land or air. The Yingtan-Xiamen Railway runs north to south through the province, an extensive highway web reaches every corner of Fujian, and every day air-conditioned buses shuttle from Xiamen to Shenzhen and Hong Kong. On the sea, the ocean liner *Jimei No.1* sails twice a week between Hong Kong and Xiamen, and there are regular sea liners to Shanghai, Wenzhou and Guangzhou. Xiamen has daily passenger flights to and from Hong Kong; and every week there are two flights to Jakarta, one flight to Penang in Malaysia, three flights to Manila and another three to Singapore. Domestically, airlines have routes from Xiamen to more than 30 destinations including Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guilin, Kunming, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

An ideal place for travellers, Xiamen is also a paradise for people who come to recuperate or those on holiday. Major tourist activities include visiting Gulangyu (Drum Wave Islet), South Putuo Temple, Wanshi (Ten-Thousand Rock) Hill and Jimei Town, and going on ocean cruises around Gulangyu Islet.

Gulangyu Tourist Area

The 1.78-square-kilometre Gulangyu Islet in the southwestern corner of Xiamen is a major scenic spot in Fujian, with serene beauty, a tranquil atmosphere and buildings in various architectural styles tucked away in the shadows of green trees. The air is fresh, the din of traffic is a sound practically unknown to local islanders, and there is plenty to see and do on this small island.

Ring Road The four-kilometre-long ring road is flanked on one side by the beach and on the other by a string of bungalows built in English, French, German, Japanese, Spanish and Chinese styles. Strolling along the road one can see islets, bays, flowers, trees, pavilions and terraces.

Riguang (Sunlit) Rock This is on the highest point of Gulangyu and is accessible only by a "sky ladder" — a steep trail which also takes one to Riguang Temple, the Ancient Summer Cave and the platform where General Zheng Chenggong (Koxinga) reviewed his naval force. Sunlit Rock provides a panoramic view of the booming metropolis of Xiamen. Right below Sunlit Rock stands the **Zheng Chenggong Memorial Hall,** where the life of the general is relived through more than 300 cultural relics, historical documents, photos, sculptures and scale models, on display in seven showrooms.

Shuzhuang (Bean Plantation) Garden This garden was built by a Taiwan business tycoon who moved his family here during the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. The terrain and the sea were perfectly incorporated into the layout of the entire garden. The Nine-Bend Forty-Four Bridge is delicately poised above the sea, and consists of Guandiao (Angling Watching) Terrace, Duyue Pavilion and interesting rockwork.

The Subtropical Botanical Garden This garden, whose full name is the "Overseas Chinese Garden for the Introduction of Subtropical Plants", sprawls at the foot of Sunlit Rock. It is not only designed for developing fine breeds of subtropical plants, but is also a beautiful place for sightseeing. Boasting more than 1,000 species of plants, the garden is divided into one nursery for the introduction of new strains, one nursery for experimental purposes, a flower garden, a greenhouse for cultivation purposes and a refrigerated room.

Xiamen Museum Located inside Bagua (Eight Trigrams) Tower on the northern slope of Bijia (Penholder) Hill in the centre of Gulangyu, Xiamen Museum has 1,000-odd exhibits on display in five halls showing the history of Xiamen and its development as a special economic zone. One hall contains the museum's collection of porcelain and jade carvings. With its wealth of historical records and relics, the museum serves as a window through which one can get a glimpse into both the past and present of Xiamen.

Gangzaihou Beach Resort This beach resort runs along the edge of Bean Plantation Garden and has fine, clean sand, a gently sloping landscape, plentiful sunlight and pollution-free sea water.

Guanhai Garden Villa A charming collection of villas and guesthouses are spread over a ten-hectare area of Gulangyu. Complete with dining rooms, meeting halls and clubs, these villas are separated by tree-lined roads, zigzagging paths and luxuriant plants. Many tourists who come here for sightseeing, holidays or meetings stay in these Western-style lodgings. There is frequent ferry service between Xiamen City and Gulangyu.

South Putuo Temple Tourist Area

Situated at the foot of Wulao Peak on the southern end of Xiamen is South Putuo Temple, first built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Later rebuilt during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), it is now an imposing multi-layered trapezoidal structure that overlooks the sea. The Shrine of Buddhist Scriptures houses a huge collection of Buddhist cultural relics, including a Burmese jade carving of the Buddha and many important Buddhist texts. The South Fujian Buddhist Institute is located to the left of the temple. Established in 1925, it enjoys great prestige among Buddhists in China. The vegetarian restaurant near the temple offers unique vegetable dishes which no tourist should miss. Other attractions near the temple are:

The Lu Xun Memorial Hall at Xiamen University Housed in the Jimei Building where Lu Xun stayed when he taught in the Chinese Department of Xiamen University from September 1926 to January 1927, the hall displays some of the objects from his old residence as well as cultural relics, pictures and documents about his life.

The Museum of Anthropology This is located in XiamenUniversity's Museum Building where archaeology and ethnology are studied. The museum has 30-odd display rooms which contain artifacts and relics from prehistoric to modern times.

Huli Hill Fortress This fortress was built in Huli Village in the southern part of Xiamen Island in 1891 during the Qing Dynasty. The fortress used to have two platforms, but today only a German-made cannon remains intact on the eastern platform.

The Overseas Chinese Museum At the foot of Fengchao (Beehive) Hill is the six-hectare Overseas Chinese Museum. Founded by the eminent overseas Chinese philanthropist Tan Kah-kee, it has three exhibition halls which have on display 1,200 pictures and documents, 2,000 rare cultural relics and 1,000 objects related to the history of Chinese who emigrated overseas.

Buses run from Xiamen's urban district to South Putuo Temple and Xiamen University.

Wanshi Hill Tourist Area

Nature is at its most impressive in this picturesque area. Only 500 metres southeast of the city proper, it is a major scenic spot known for its caves and egg-shaped granite rocks, which blend in harmoniously with the flowers and trees of the botanical garden near Wanshi Lake. The botanical garden features more than 4,000 species of tropical and subtropical plants kept in more than 20 nurseries. The Hongshan Amusement Park is also located here at the southwestern foot of the hill. This tourist area can be reached by bus from downtown Xiamen.

Jimei Tourist Area

At the northern end of the Gaoqi-Jimei Sea Dyke lies the town of Jimei. Encircled by the sea on three sides, the town is known for its magnificent buildings and picture-postcard scenery.

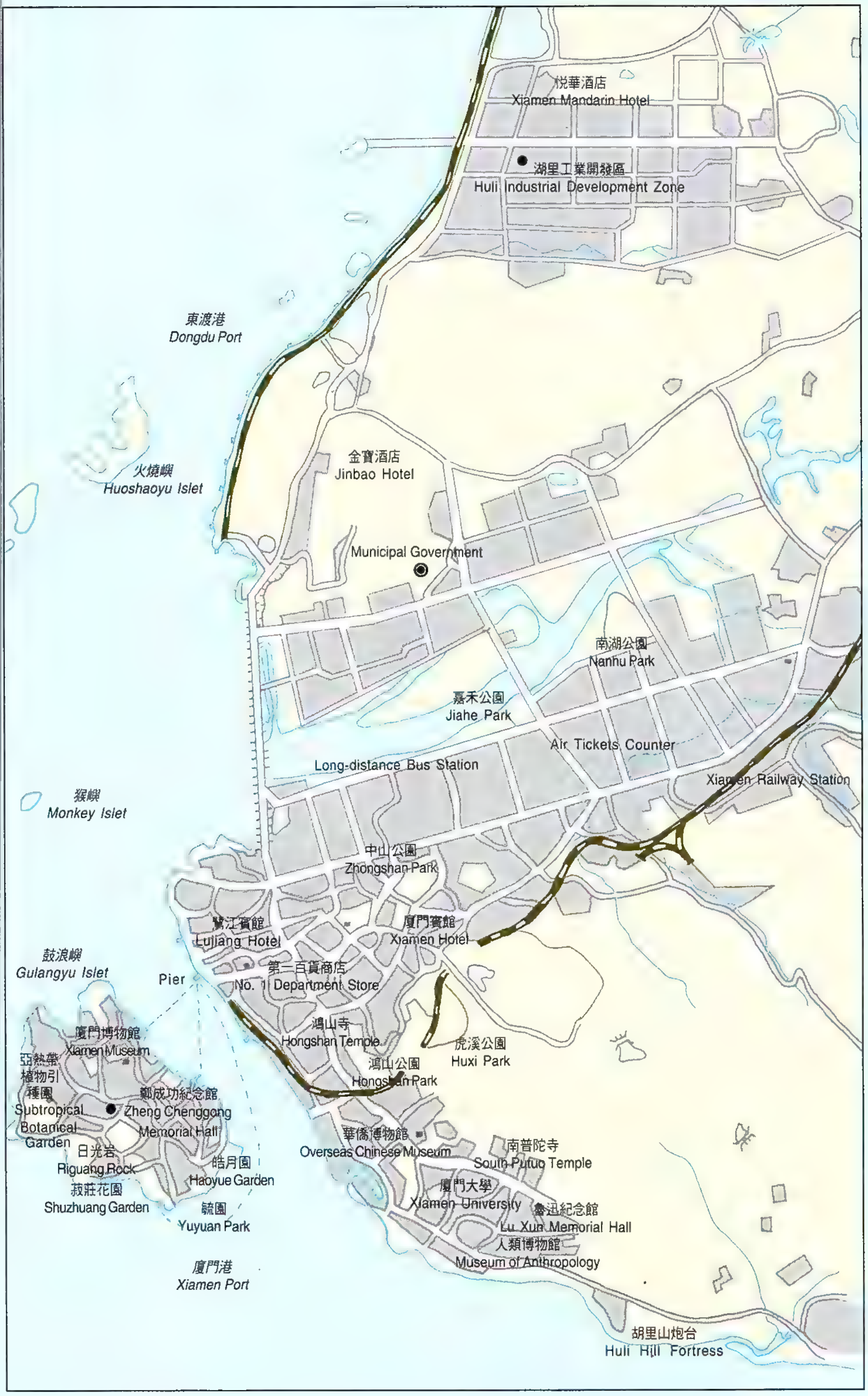
Jimei is the hometown of Tan Kah-kee, who founded Xiamen University in 1913. He then went on to build a kindergarten, a science centre, a library and several other schools teaching various subjects, turning Jimei from a rural village into a sizeable town whose total student population of more than 100,000 exceeds that of the local residents. As a tourist site, Jimei has the following attractions to offer:

Aoyuan (Turtle Garden) Situated on the southeastern tip of Jimei Town, Turtle Garden includes a 50-metre-long corridor, a monument and the Mausoleum of Tan Kah-kee. The walls on both sides of

▲ *One section of Aoyuan Garden in Jimei (by Chan Yat Nin)*

▶ *The last remaining cannon at Huli Hill Fortress (by Chan Yat Nin)*

The former residence of Mr. Tan Kah-kee (by Xie Guanghui)


悅華酒店
Xiamen Mandarin Hotel
湖里工業開發區
Huli Industrial Development Zone
東渡港
Dongdu Port
火燒嶼
Huoshaoyu Islet
金寶酒店
Jinbao Hotel
Municipal Government
南湖公園
Nanhu Park
嘉禾公園
Jiahe Park
Air Tickets Counter
Long-distance Bus Station
Xiamen Railway Station
猴嶼
Monkey Islet
中山公園
Zhongshan Park
鷺江賓館
Lujiang Hotel
廈門賓館
Xiamen Hotel
鼓浪嶼
Gulangyu Islet
Pier
第一百貨商店
No. 1 Department Store
鴻山寺
Hongshan Temple
廈門博物館
Xiamen Museum
虎溪公園
Huxi Park
亞熱帶植物引種園
Subtropical Botanical Garden
鄭成功紀念館
Zheng Chenggong Memorial Hall
鴻山公園
Hongshan Park
日光岩
Riguang Rock
華僑博物館
Overseas Chinese Museum
南普陀寺
South Putuo Temple
皓月園
Haoyue Garden
菽莊花園
Shuzhuang Garden
廈門大學
Xiamen University
魯迅紀念館
Lu Xun Memorial Hall
毓園
Yuyuan Park
人類博物館
Museum of Anthropology
廈門港
Xiamen Port
胡里山炮台
Huli Hill Fortress

Strange and fantastic rocks are found on Huoshaoyu Isle (by Chan Yat Nin).

the corridor have carvings of more than 40 pictures relating the lives of historical figures. A pagoda-shaped stone monument is erected in the centre of the garden. On the stone railings are relief sculptures depicting the life of this great patriot.

Yanping Fortress General Zheng Chenggong built this granite fortress atop an overhanging cliff overlooking the sea on the southern side of Jimei Town. The site now lies in ruins except for one solitary door and a rusty cannon.

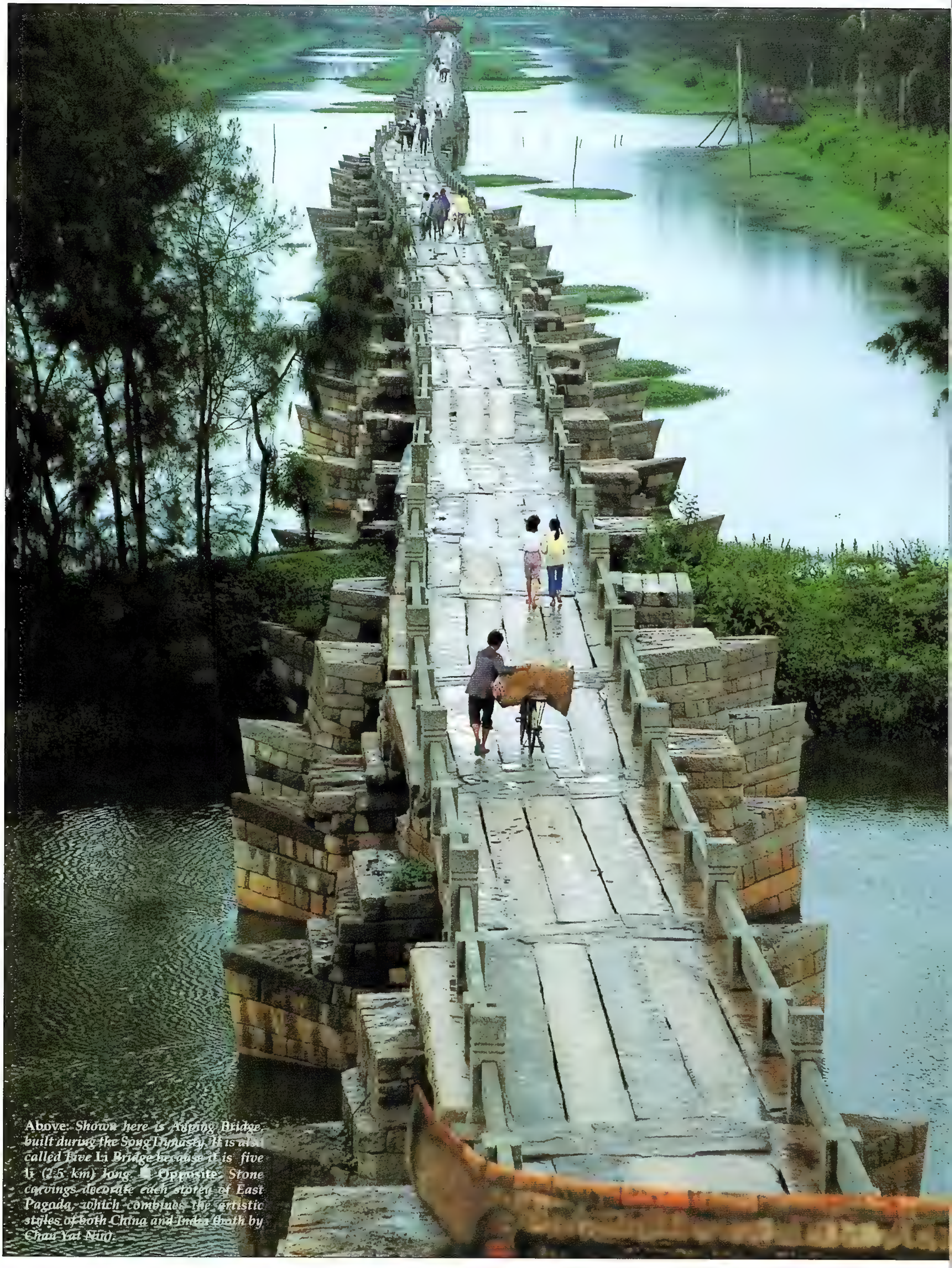
Xiamen Sea Dykes Xiamen is linked with the mainland by the Gaoqi-Jimei and Jimei-Xinglin Sea Dykes. Both dykes are open to traffic and are used by trains, automobiles and pedestrians. In 1991 a new highway bridge was built to the northeast of the Gaoqi-Jimei Dyke, and is the first land-sea bridge in China.

Jimei is 20 kilometres away from Xiamen and is accessible by bus and train.

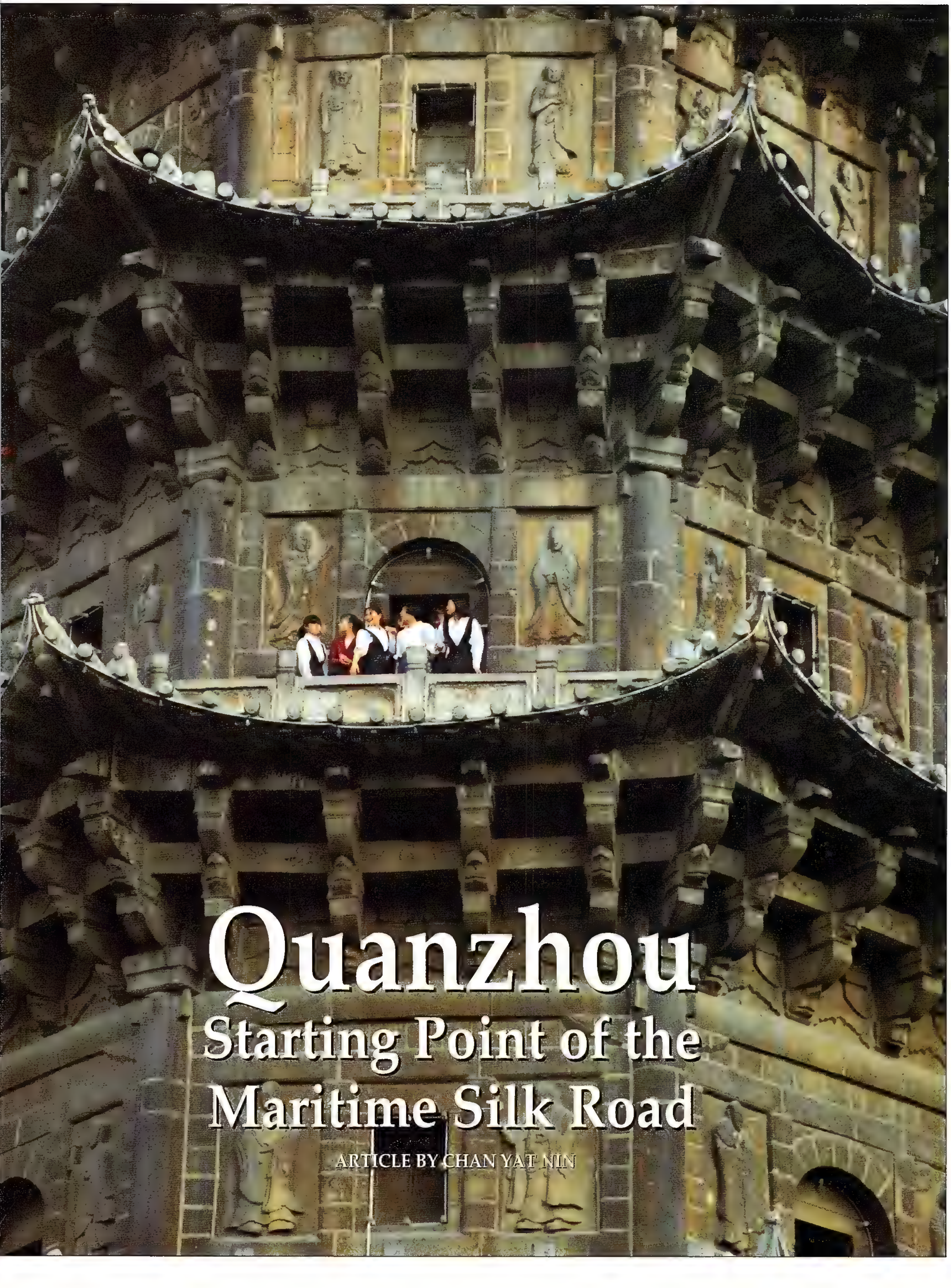
Ocean Cruise

An eight-kilometre cruise around Gulangyu gives visitors a chance to enjoy the view of the beautiful rolling hills on the island as well as catch a glimpse of Monkey, Huoshaoyu (Burning) and Baozhuyu (Pearl) Isles. The cruise also takes passengers past the newly-built Dongdu Harbour and the Huli Industrial Development Zone. The ship goes past the mouth of Jiulong (Nine Dragon) River and behind Gulangyu to a crescent-shaped bay. There the city of Xiamen is surrounded by a number of small islets, including the Dadan and Erdan Isles and the Greater and Lesser Jinmen Islands. During the summer tourist season, a special cruise service which departs from the Xiagu Ferry Pier is available. Ͼ

Translated by Ling Yuan



Above: *Shown here is Anping Bridge, built during the Song Dynasty. It is also called Five Li Bridge because it is five li (2.5 km) long.* ■ **Opposite:** *Stone carvings decorate each storey of East Pagoda, which combines the artistic styles of both China and India (both by Chan Yat Nin).*



Quanzhou

Starting Point of the Maritime Silk Road

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

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In 1990, a luxury ship kindly provided by H.M. Sultan Qabus of Oman set sail from the Italian city of Venice for the Far East. On board this ship was the UNESCO Maritime Expedition, composed of relevant experts, and Muslims from several countries. Travelling along the 1,000-year-old maritime route of the Silk Road, they sailed for many months until they reached Quanzhou, known as the City of Coral Trees in ancient times, in February, 1991. They came to visit this ancient port of call on Fujian's southern coast, a place which once played a pivotal role in the cultural and economic exchanges between East and West.

A number of Muslims, holding aloft banners which read "Chendai Muslims", stood along the dock to greet the passengers. These Muslims were the descendants of Arabs who had settled there centuries earlier. Their forefathers, together with the local Quanzhou people, were part of a legendary period of history. It was this history, in fact, that brought the Maritime Expedition to Quanzhou, to study and tour the city where their ancestors once thrived.

The Largest Port in the Orient

If one could go back in time to Quanzhou during the Song and Yuan dynasties (960-1368), one would see hundreds of huge ships docked in Quanzhou Bay. Boats loaded with goods would be shuttling back and forth between the ships and the wharves, the latter already piled high with goods. After unloading items such as spices, ivory, pearls, hawksbill turtles and rhinoceros horns, the ships would then take on silk, porcelain, tea and Chinese arts and crafts before sailing back home.

Both inside and outside the city, people of all nationalities mixed together. Most were Arabs and Persians but there were also people from India and Southeast Asian countries. They were merchants, sailors, emissaries, missionaries and officials, and many of them settled down here for long periods of time, particularly in the area from Fashi to Houzhu Port. In one place called "Fanfang" (Foreigners' Living Quarters), many houses, churches, temples and mosques were constructed in varying architectural styles. It was indeed an international city, and remained that way for more than three centuries, something quite unprecedented in the history of China.

The more famous Silk Road on land was established as early as the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and continued until the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Its use gradually declined after the Tang due to social unrest in northern China and was totally disrupted during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) because of a war between Song and Jin troops. The end of the Silk Road meant that there was no longer a link between China and the outside world. Merchants in the West still wanted to do trade, therefore it was imperative to open a maritime route that would take the place of the old Silk Road.

At first Guangzhou was the port of call for most merchant vessels, however, due to outbreaks of war and official corruption, traffic there began to decrease. Quanzhou was the only port that was politically stable and had a healthy trade environment. It also had the advantage of being an excellent natural harbour close to the capital Hangzhou, and for these reasons soon developed into the largest port in China.

By the end of the Song Dynasty the Maritime Administration of Foreign Trade had been set up in Quanzhou, a hotel was specially built to receive foreign envoys, and privileges were granted to encourage them to do business with Chinese people. An Arab who had acquired Chinese citizenship was appointed head of the office, and his wide contacts with the Arab world brought more Arabian ships to Quanzhou. In those days, a full quarter of the country's revenue came from this one office.

During the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Quanzhou continued to receive great attention and support from the imperial court. For 300 years it remained China's major port, and was considered as important to world trade as Egypt's famed city of Alexandria.

Luoyang Bridge was built during the Northern Song Dynasty to transport goods arriving in Quanzhou via the Maritime Silk Road (1, by Shangguan Zhonghua). ▪ *Waterways crisscross the paddy fields in the coastal area of the city (2, by Chen Shizhe).* ▪ *One of the five conical stone pagodas on Luoyang Bridge (3, by Xie Guanghui).* ▪ *This old residential building in western Quanzhou boasts some exquisite carvings around the doorways (4, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Kaiyuan Temple is situated between the magnificent East and West Pagodas (5, by Shangguan Zhonghua).*

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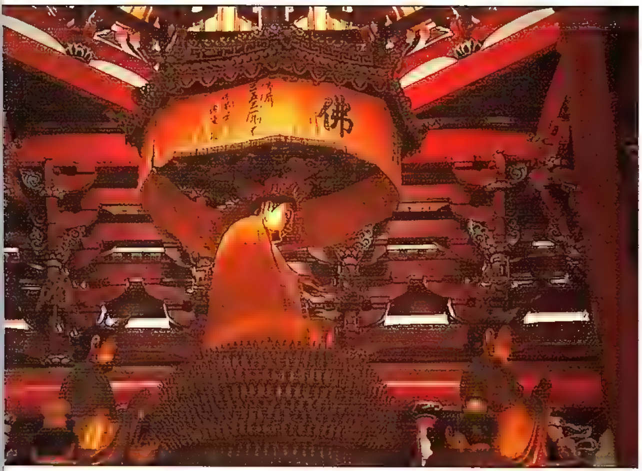

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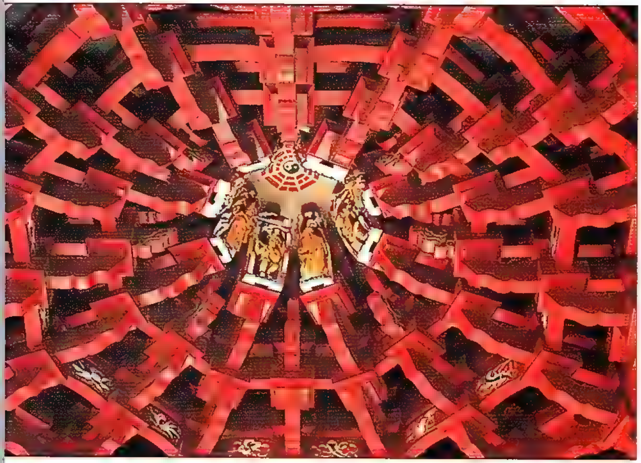
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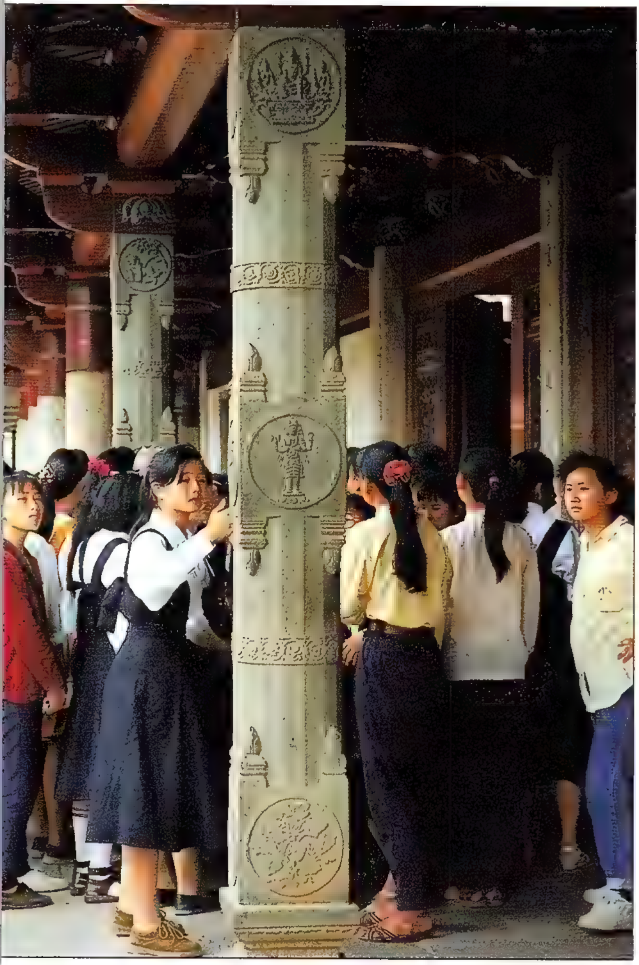
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Relics of a Bygone Era

Strolling along the streets of Quanzhou, reminders of the past are there for those who know what to look for. Jubao (Treasure Trove) Street outside the Southern Gate, for instance, used to be a street where jewelry, pearls and gold were traded. At Xiaomen Lane near the Southern Gate, one can see the ruins of the Maritime Administration of Foreign Trade, and the hotel where foreign envoys once stayed still stands at Cheqiaotou Dock. Houses in areas such as Baguagou and Jingting Lane have retained their original appearance, contributing to the city's ancient atmosphere.

However, if you want to see the structure that best represents that period of history, visit Kaiyuan Temple in the northern end of the city. This temple was built in the year 686 during the Tang Dynasty, and is most well-known for its two pagodas which flank Daxiong (Mahavira) Hall. They were originally built using wood and bricks, but during the Song Dynasty a major reconstruction in stone was done, a project which lasted for 22 years. Called the East and West pagodas, they are probably two of the most well-preserved stone pagodas in China today.

The most impressive parts of these pagodas are the bas-relief carvings around the niches of each storey, depicting warriors, lokapalas, guardian deities and arhats. The artistic style is a mixture of Chinese and Indian styles, not surprising since at that time cultural exchanges between China and the outside world were fairly regular. However, there is another, more practical, reason for the pagodas' unusual style. When just four of the pagodas' storeys were complete, the Chinese monk in charge of the construction work suddenly died. His replacement was a monk from India, and it was under him that the construction continued until its completion.

Some of the carvings on the pagoda are of the legendary Monkey King, made famous in China through the novel *Journey to the West*. This has caused some people to argue that the Monkey King originated in Fujian, since the novel was written in the 16th century, long after the temple was built. In fact the monkey is said to be an imitation of the monkey-god Hanuman as described in the *Ramayana*, an Indian epic.

Behind Mahavira Hall are two Indian-style stone posts featuring carvings of Shiva, one of the three main deities in Hinduism. These two posts were not specially built for this temple, but were actually transported here from a collapsed Indian temple. Inside the hall are 24 flying apsaras carved in between the brackets. Carrying Nanyin musical instruments in their hands, they look like a cross between Oriental girls and Catholic angels, but with wings in the shape of bats (a homonym for fortune in Chinese) instead of flowing ribbons and floating clouds. Inside the temple are also many images of human figures, animals and other patterns carved on the pagodas and stone foundations, all vividly reflecting that open era when Chinese culture and arts blended with those of the West.

To the east of Mahavira Hall is the Museum of Maritime Communications. Many relics concerning the Maritime Silk Road are on exhibit here, including a large ancient boat that was retrieved from Quanzhou Bay. No one knows how or why it capsized, but we do know that it had been sitting on the bottom of the sea for 700 years.

Although damaged, the boat measures 24 metres long and nine metres wide, consisted of 13 cabins and had a capacity of 200 tons. Had 200 tons of goods been transported via the original Silk Road, 700 camels would have been needed to carry it all. The boat is typical of its time and is a good example of the vessels built in Quanzhou's many shipyards at that time. Aided by compasses — then the most advanced nautical instrument available — and using the stars for navigation, these boats sailed all over the world. Apart from the ancient boat, the museum also houses porcelain and stone carvings of the type commonly sold for export.

Twenty-four flying apsaras decorate the corridor of the main hall of Kaiyuan Temple (1, by Shangguan Zhonghua). ■ *The Guan Yu Temple in Quanzhou attracts pilgrims all year round (2, by Xie Guanghui).* ■ *The Altar of Sweet Dew in Kaiyuan Temple is one of the three most important altars in China (3, by Xie Guanghui).* ■ *This design underneath the dome of the theatre outside the Tianhou Temple is a good example of a "caisson", a decorative feature common to ancient Chinese buildings (4, by Xie Guanghui).* ■ *On the pillars in the main hall of Kaiyuan Temple are carvings of Shiva, one of the three main deities in Hinduism (5, by Chan Yat Nin).*

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Islamic Presence Strong in Quanzhou

During its height, Quanzhou was a veritable showcase of religious tolerance. Apart from Buddhism and Hinduism, Islam, Nestorianism, Manichaeism and Taoism all made their mark in this city.

Near Quanzhou's east entrance, there are two graves known as the Sacred Tombs of Islam, where two disciples of the Islamic prophet Mohammed are buried. Mohammed founded Islam in the early 600's, and during that time sent four of his disciples to China. The first disciple went to Guangzhou, the second to Yangzhou, and the third and fourth to Quanzhou.

Some people wonder why, if Islam was only just established, the prophet would send four disciples to China. This is actually very simple to explain. When Islam was first founded it was declared illegal in the prophet's own homeland, therefore Mohammed tried to spread his beliefs abroad first. When he learned that Tang-dynasty China was both large and prosperous, and that there was a maritime route there, he made the decision to send his four followers to the Orient. Therefore China was one of the world's first countries to receive the teachings of Mohammed.

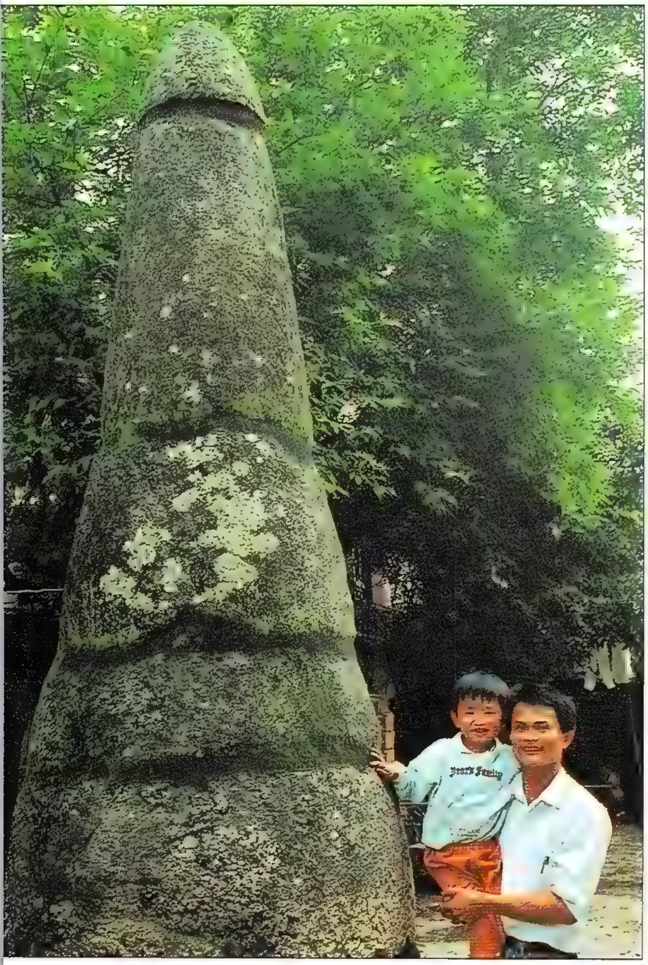
One of the earliest Islamic mosques in China is located in Quanzhou, on Tushan Street. It was built in 1009, and is an imitation of a mosque in Syria's city of Damascus. The main parts of the structure include the entrance gate, Fengtian Altar, Mingshan Chamber and Prayer Hall. During an earthquake in 1607 the dome of the tower on Fengtian Altar collapsed, but the four walls remain intact. The entrance gate is the most well-preserved part of the compound. It is 20 metres high and in the centre of the vaulted ceiling is an architectural design called a "caisson". As this is a design common to ancient Chinese buildings, it is clear that architecturally, the mosque is a combination of Chinese and Islamic styles.

In Quanzhou one can also see a large number of tombstones with Arabic writing, or sometimes both Arabic and Chinese words. These tombs obviously belong to Muslims and many of them bear the words Fanke Mu, literally meaning "foreign guest's tomb". This indicates that Muslims from abroad who settled in Quanzhou used the word "fanke" to refer to themselves. The interesting thing is that these words were in Arabic but were written like Chinese calligraphy!

Of all religions practised in Quanzhou in those days, Manichaeism is one of the most interesting. At the foot of Wanshi Peak to the southwest of Quanzhou there is a strange temple, in which an eerie-looking idol with long hair is worshipped. People believe it to be the Goddess of Mercy, however, it is quite different from the usual image of the goddess. Local people call the temple Cao'an (Thatched Nunnery). In fact, the idol is a statue of a Manichaeist deity.

Manichaeism was founded by an Iranian named Mani (or Manichaeus) during the third century. Mani taught that everything in the universe springs from the two principles of light and dark, or good and evil. Combining elements of Christianity, Buddhism and Nestorianism, his religion became known in China as the "Religion of Light". It was introduced into China and grew popular in the late seventh century during the Tang Dynasty.

Several hundred years later the founder of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Taizu (r. 1368-1398), issued a decree banning the Religion of Light, because the word for "light" in Chinese is pronounced "ming", which happened to be the name of the Ming Dynasty and therefore was not allowed to be used by anyone but the emperor. From that time forward Manichaeism died out in China and never returned. Cao'an Nunnery is the only reminder of Manichaeism in China left today.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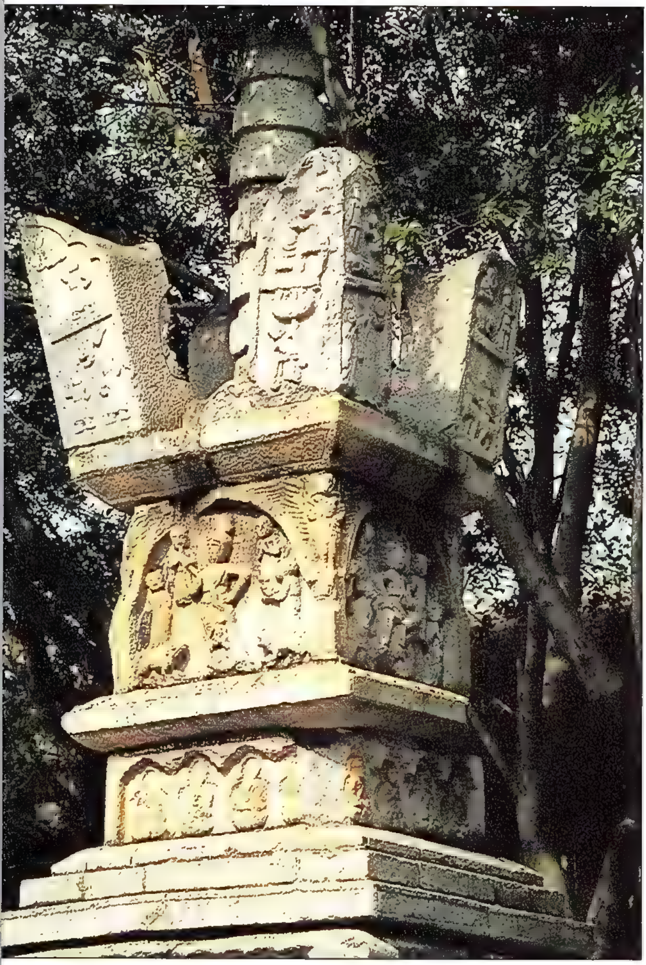
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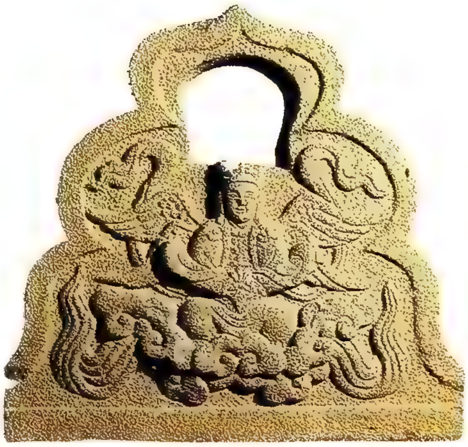
This tiny street sign reads "Jiuguanyi Street" and marks the building where passing merchants used to stay on their way through Quanzhou in ancient times (1, by Xie Guanghui). This stone statue of Laozi, the founder of Taoism, is the largest Taoist stone statue in China and is nearly 700 years old (2, by Chan Yat Nin). This woman is in charge of sweeping Beidi Temple, where business people go to pray before heading abroad on business trips (3, by Chan Yat Nin). The origin of this stone pillar in the Xinmen area is uncertain: some believe it to be a large Shiva lingam (the male reproductive organ) as is commonly worshipped in Hinduism; while others claim it is the fengshui *rock for Quanzhou (4, by Chan Yat Nin). The square in front of the main hall of Kaiyuan Temple has many stone carvings which show the influence of Hinduism on Chinese architecture (5, by Chan Yat Nin).*



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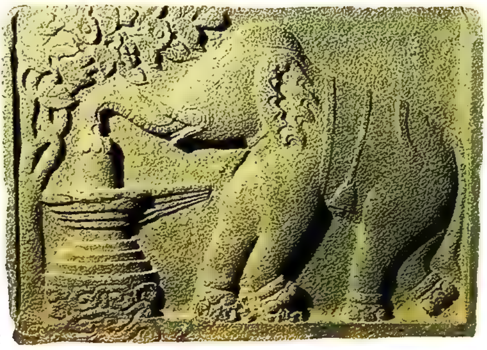

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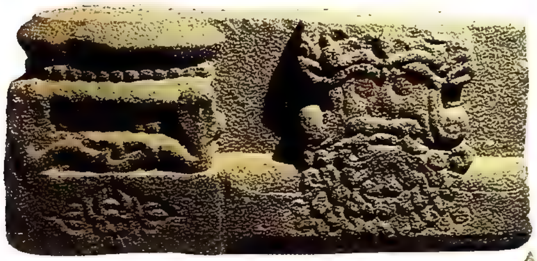

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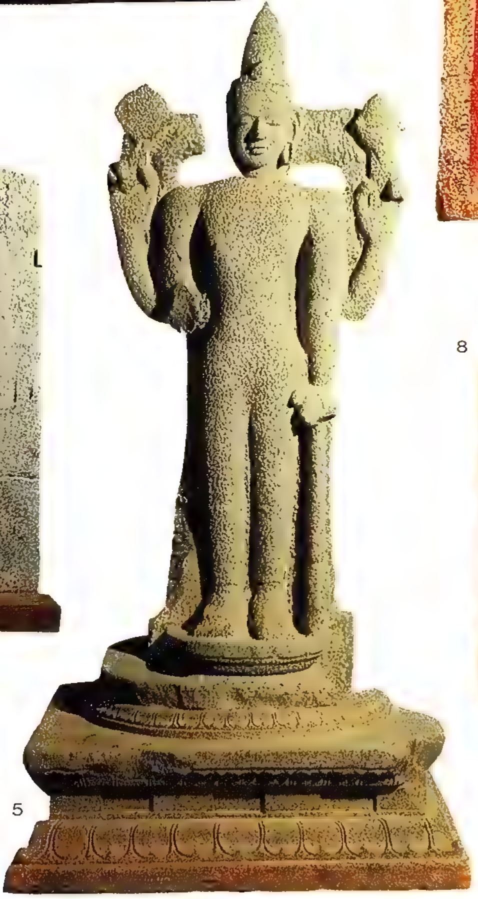

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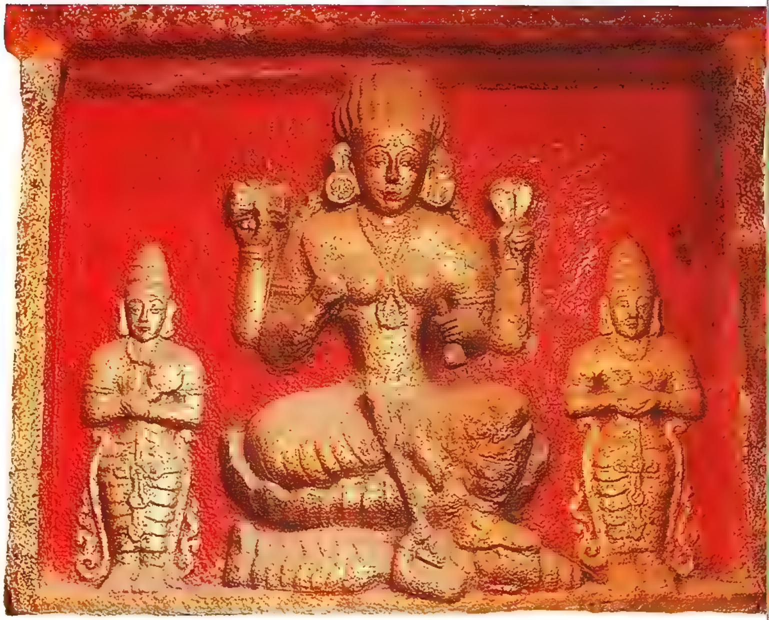

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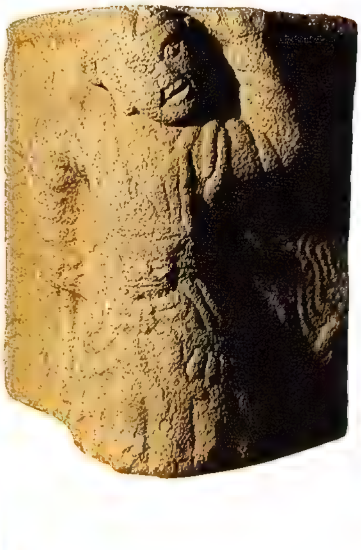

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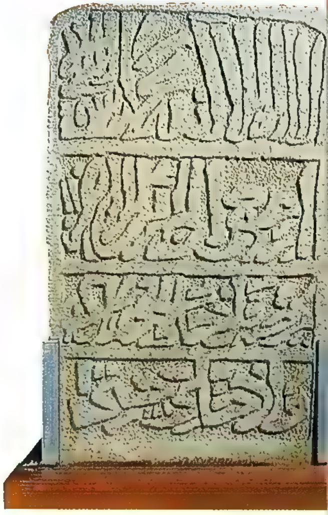

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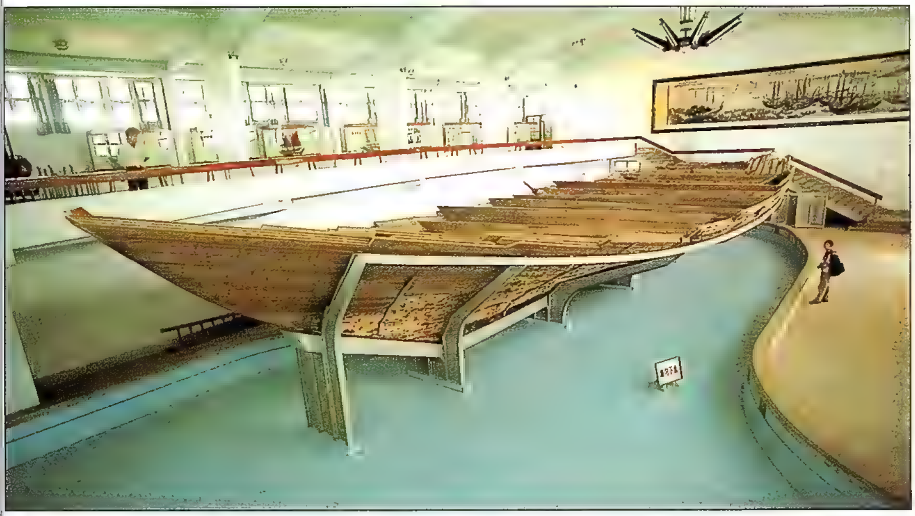
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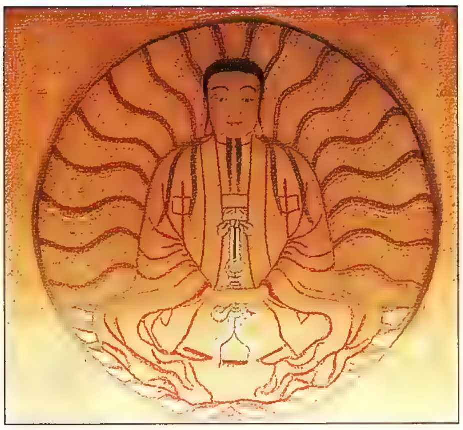
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This carving depicts the unusual combination of an angel and a Buddha (1, by Shangguan Zhonghua). ■ *This stone carving of a white elephant offering flowers to a Shiva lingam is taken from an old Hindu tale (2, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *This carving of a lion and a cobra was found among the ruins of an Indian temple (3, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *There are about 10,000 Arabian descendants whose surname is Guo living on Baiqi Island in Quanzhou. The words on their tombstones are written in both Chinese and Arabic (4, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *This standing stone statue of Vishnu, the Hindu God of Preservation, was brought here from abroad (5, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *Arabian Muslims come to Quanzhou to visit the Sacred Tombs of Islam, where two of Mohammed's disciples are buried (6, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *This Hindu carving was taken from a temple and inlaid into the wall of a house on the outskirts of Quanzhou. Local people worship it as an image of Guanyin, a Chinese Buddhist deity (7, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *A carving at Kaiyuan Temple of a Buddhist guardian (8, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *The Arabic writing on this stone carving looks almost like Chinese calligraphy on an ancient seal (9, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *Muslims from Chendai Village came to Quanzhou Port to welcome the luxury liner carrying members of the UNESCO Maritime Silk Road Expedition (10, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *This huge ship found on the bottom of the sea just off Quanzhou shows the superb skill of shipbuilders more than 700 years ago (11, by Chan Yat Nin).* ■ *This statue of a hunter riding a lion is another example of the blending of Eastern and Western art (12, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *The last Manichaeist carving in China is housed at Cao'an (Thatched Nunnery) (13, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *Found on a Nestorian tombstone, this carving shows a pair of angels holding lotus flowers and a cross, combining Persian, Greek and Chinese mythology (14, by Shangguan Zhonghua).* ■ *Members of the UNESCO Maritime Silk Road Expedition made their own carving alongside the ancient rock carvings at Jiuri Mountain, written long ago by local and foreign sailors praying for safe passage (15, by Shangguan Zhonghua).*

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The Decline of China's Most Prosperous Port

At one time Quanzhou was home to a large number of temples, monasteries and mosques, yet today most have been reduced to no more than tumbledown walls. Unlike in other places, the religious structures in Quanzhou all seem to have disappeared at the same time, causing much speculation among visitors as to the reason why.

This great and sudden change was the result of the Yuan empire's policy to use ethnic peoples to rule the Han people. At that time people in China were divided into three categories: first came the Mongolians, who were the local rulers, second were other ethnic groups and third, the Han Chinese. Since there were not many Mongolians around in Quanzhou they were unable to rule the city, therefore the reigns of power were given to Chinese Arabs. Troops garrisoning the city were mostly Persians, a situation that soon resulted in trouble for the imperial court.

During the late Yuan and early Ming Dynasty, there was a mutiny among the Persian troops, an event which ushered in ten years of upheaval. The Ming Dynasty sent troops to suppress the Persians, and the local Han Chinese took advantage of this opportunity to seek revenge. The Ming troops even went so far as to try to suppress religion among the Arabs, to whom Islam was an integral part of life. For these reasons the social unrest and feuding between different nationalities heightened. Quanzhou was thrown into chaos. In addition, the Ming court decided to close off the coast, therefore all trade via the maritime route was stopped. Since that time the once prosperous city of Quanzhou began its decline, never to regain its former glory.

However, the period of Quanzhou's history when Han Chinese and Arabs co-existed in peace still lives on in the descendants of these people. Mixed marriages were common, and their offspring are now Quanzhou citizens. It is sometimes difficult to tell who is pure Han Chinese and who is of Arabic origin. To avoid political trouble, many Arabs and people of mixed descent actually changed their names and lived on with their Han neighbours.

The Chendai Muslims mentioned at the beginning of this article are one branch of Arabic descendants who flourished in Quanzhou. Their forefathers changed their family name to "Ding" and then moved to Chendai in the south of Quanzhou. They formed a new community but kept their own customs and way of life. Today, Chendai is a large Muslim village and its villagers are known as "Chendai Ding". There is a fairly large ancestral hall in this village which attests to this marriage of cultures. Architecturally, it is built like any ancient structure typical to southern Fujian, but in its decoration it is pure Islam.

The descendants of some Arabic tribes have assimilated themselves so well into Han Chinese society that they themselves did not know about their origin until historians informed them of the fact. People with surnames like Bu and Huang in Yunlu Village, for example, had only heard rumours that they were descendants of Arabs. However, researchers discovered that their anscestor was none other than Pu Shougeng, an Arab who had been appointed head of the city's Maritime Administration of Foreign Trade both in the Song Dynasty and in the Yuan. Later he became assistant to the governor of Fujian during the Yuan Dynasty.

In this way the past is slowly being revived, and although most of the temples and mosques of ancient Quanzhou are no more, the local people have much to look back on with pride. Today Quanzhou is still a city with strong cultural traditions, and as its economic development continues, so too does people's appreciation for its unique history.

Translated by Wang Mingjie

Local musicians play **Nanyin** *music from southern Fujian at the Huaqiao Temple in Quanzhou (1, by Xie Guanghui).* ▪ *The stone carvings on this mosque are undoubtedly Arabic (2, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Arabic writing is seen all along the streets around the mosque (3, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *In Yunlu Village there are many descendants of Arabs who once lived and flourished here, but after so many years it is hard to tell them apart from the Han Chinese (4, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *People in Yunlu Village find many uses for flowers (5, by Chan Yat Nin).* ▪ *Quanzhou women have their own style of dress (6, by Xie Guanghui).*

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Wuyi Mountain's graceful pinnacles are lost in a sea of drifting clouds (by Han Jing).

Arriving by bamboo raft at the Fifth Bend, one has a choice of eithe ascending Tianyou Peak or sailing further downstream

Wuyi — The Most Scenic Mountain in Southeast China

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

The Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area is located in Wuyishan City and stretches along Fujian's northernmost border with Jiangxi Province. Wuyi's 36 graceful peaks, most under 600 metres high, are skirted by a zigzagging river called Nine Bend Creek. This naturally endowed landscape of water and hills has given the area the reputation of being the most scenic wonder in Southeast China. Since ancient times, Wuyi Mountain has attracted an endless flow of scholars, Taoist masters, Buddhist monks and travellers.

The name of the mountain comes from a story about a legendary person called Qian Keng who lived during the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th century-11th century B.C.), believed to be the eighth generation descendant of Huangdi, the Yellow Emperor. Because of Qian Keng's outstanding achievements, King Yao gave him the title of lord of Pengcheng (present-day Xuzhou in Jiangsu) and thus he became known by the surname Peng. His descendants referred to him as Peng Zu (Ancestor Peng). To escape from wars occurring at that time, Peng Zu took his two sons, Peng Wu and Peng Yi, to a scenic mountain area in northern Fujian. They settled down there, worked the land and lived as farmers. Later, in memory of these first settlers to the region, people named the mountain range after the two sons, Wu and Yi, and thereafter also used the name Wuyi to refer to Peng Zu. Later Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty (r. 140-87 B.C.) sent out envoys who travelled long distances in order to confer on Wuyi the honorific title of Master.

Following the example of Emperor Wudi, rulers of later dynasties all attached great importance to Wuyi Mountain. An altar was set up at the foot of Manting (Curtain Pavilion) Peak to offer sacrifices to Master Wuyi every year. A temple was also built there and a senior official was put in charge of all affairs related to the mountain. Apart from the legendary figure of Peng Zu, historical documents also mention a number of well-known personages who have visited Wuyi, including scholars, politicians, poets and the famous geographer and traveller Xu Xiake.

One can reach Wuyi Mountain from Fuzhou, Xiamen or other major cities in Fujian by taking a train to the city of Nanping. From there, a 180-kilometre bus ride will bring visitors face to face with the mountain at Wuyi Palace, located in Wuyishan City. The new airport in Wuyishan will be open before the end of the year, and will greatly facilitate travel to and from the mountain.

Above: *At Yilan (Panoramic View) Terrace atop Tianyou Peak, one is rewarded with a bird's-eye view of the mountains embraced by Nine Bend Creek.*

Wuyi Mountain, Wuyishan City, Wuyi Palace, and the Wuyi Mountain Nature Reserve

The name Wuyi Mountain customarily refers to the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area located in the northern section of the Wuyi Mountain chain,15 kilometres from Wuyishan City in northwestern Fujian. Originally called Chong'an County, it became Wuyishan City in 1990. Now the city covers an area of 2,789 square kilometres and has a population of over 200,000. On maps the scenic area, though within the boundary of Wuyishan City, is marked separately as Wuyi Mountain or Wuyi Palace.

Wuyi Palace was formerly a temple built to offer sacrifices to Master Wuyi, and houses the administration office in charge of affairs associated with the mountain. Later, the term Wuyi Palace extended to include the surrounding area, so that today it refers to both the temple and the region. When it is written on maps it always means the latter. Wuyi Palace is the administrative, economic, cultural and tourist service centre of the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area.

The Wuyi Mountain Nature Reserve is south of the main peak of the Wuyi Mountain chain, while the nature reserve's administration headquarters are located in Sangang, 40 kilometres west of the scenic area. The nature reserve occupies an area of about 57,000 hectares and is on average 1,200 metres above sea level. Mount Huanggang, 2,158 metres above sea level, is the tallest peak in Southeast China.

Tianyou Peak Scenic Area

Covering an area of four square kilometres, the Tianyou Peak Scenic Area features such spots as Tianyou Peak, Cloud Nest, Tea Cave, Snowflake Spring, Fairy's Bath Pool, Jiesun Peak, Yinping Peak, Yuhua Peak, Tianyou Temple, Miaogao Terrace, Flax Gully, Panoramic View Pavilion and Cloth Drying Rock.

Yunwo (Cloud Nest) Cloud Nest is actually a group of a dozen caves located on the west cliffs of Jiesun Peak. In the mornings during the winter and spring clouds linger here, giving rise to the name. Nearby are Thundering Rock, Furnace Rock, Immortal's Trace Rock, Changing Clothes Terrace, Tianzhu Peak, Tianyou Peak, Cangping Peak, Crouching Tiger's Rock, Sima Spring, Arhat Rock, Lesser Line of Sky, Union Pleasure Cave, Fuxi Cave and Xuyun (Humble Cloud) Cave.

Chadong (Tea Cave) Also called Yuhua Cave, its name comes from a legend which tells of an immortal who planted the world's first tea plant in this cave. The tea produced here is still the best on Wuyi Mountain. An extremely quiet and secluded retreat, hermits have been coming here for centuries to escape from worldly cares.

Yinping (Hidden Screen) Peak Yinping Peak rises abruptly up from the Fifth Bend, looking like a screen hidden deep in the Pinglin Woods, hence its name. To ascend the summit, one has to go through the Liuyun (Lingering Cloud) Study at Tea Cave, climb an iron ladder at a place marked with the characters *bu xu* (humble steps) and turn at a place called "chicken breast" before finally arriving at Xianfanjie (Immortal-Mortal Land). Then a winding stone stairway will take one to the forested summit. After a short break at the Yinping Teahouse, one can walk a few dozen metres to see Fox Cave, where a view of the Fifth Bend is possible.

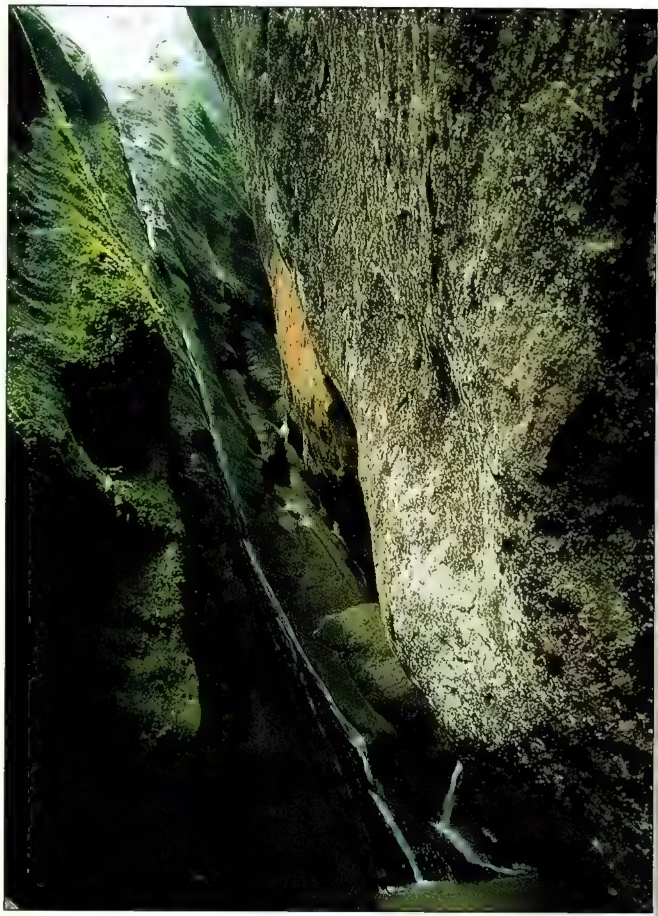
Turning back from Fox Cave, there are two possible routes: one is to return to Tea Cave along the same route; the other is to go northward up the summit of Yinping Peak, along the challenging but safe stone steps which wind round Yuhua Peak, and eventually ascend Tianyou Peak.

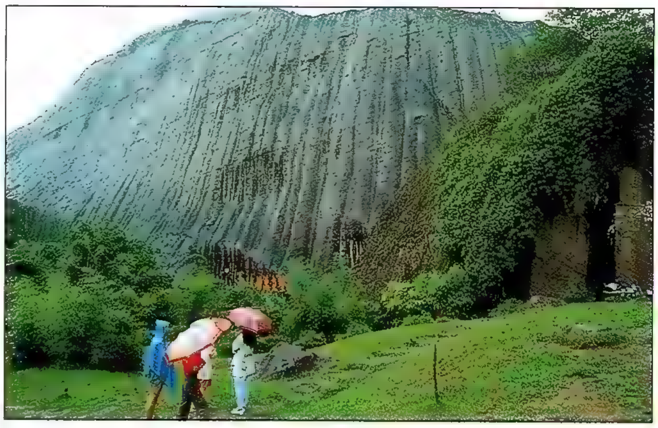
Jiesun (Jointed Bamboo Shoot) Peak Also called Jiesun Rock and Xianjie Peak, this peak stands west of Yinping Peak. Rising straight up for about 90 metres, it does indeed look like a huge bamboo shoot with three horizontal broken sections.

Shaibu (Cloth Drying) Rock An extremely enormous rock cliff below Tianyou Peak and north of the Sixth Bend, Shaibu Rock looks as if it has been scored with gigantic knives. This largest single rock in the entire Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area is covered with indentations made by water that has been flowing for centuries. In the light of the setting sun, it appears as if pieces of cloth are being hung out to dry, hence its name. A few deeply set marks in the shape of palm prints are seen halfway up the rock, giving it another name: Immortal's Palm Peak.

Tianyou (Heavenly Tour) Peak This towering peak stands behind the Fifth Bend, and is where visitors always come to see the sea of clouds. At Yilan (Panoramic View) Pavilion and Yilan Terrace on the top of the peak, one has a great view of the mountains and the entire length of Nine Bend Creek. One can spend the night at Heavenly Tour Temple or the Miaogao Mountain Villa and then watch the sunrise and see the sea of clouds the next morning.

At Chadong (Tea Cave) a clear spring flows down into Xianrong Pool all year round.





Middle: *For those who do not dare navigate the plank stairway, bamboo litters will carry them up to the summit.*
Bottom: *On the western side of Tianyou Peak is Cloth Drying Rock.*

A Bird's-Eye View from Heavenly Tour Peak

For a panoramic view of Nine Bend Creek as it meanders through the beautiful hills, there is no place better than the top of Tianyou (Heavenly Tour) Peak. At dawn, when the first rays of light are cast over the fog-engulfed mountains, tourists are already treading the mountain path from Yunwo (Cloud Nest) to Chadong (Tea Cave).

Chadong is located just beyond Fuhu (Crouching Tiger) Rock, on a small piece of relatively flat land lying deep in the quiet mountain valley. It is surrounded by a number of peaks: Yinping (Hidden Screen), Yuhua (Elegant Jade), Jiesun (Jointed Bamboo Shoot), Xianzhang (Immortal's Palm) and Tianyou Peak. Two stairways are built into the sheer cliffs, the one on the right leading up to Yinping and Jiesun peaks and the one on the left leading directly up to Tianyou Peak.

As I climbed the stone steps, fog drifted so close by I could practically reach out and touch it. Looking up, a waterfall was splashing down between the cliffs. When the fog dispersed, I suddenly found myself walking on a narrow mountain ridge shaped like the back of a fish, with nothing but empty space on either side.

Luckily the walk was short and in half an hour I was on the summit of Tianyou Peak. As I stood atop Yilan (Panoramic View) Terrace, which soars high above all the other peaks, the morning sun was just making its first appearance and the summits of the surrounding peaks were poking their heads above the sea of clouds, looking like so many floating islands.

Suddenly, the sea of clouds began to move, rolling away like a curtain to reveal in full Wuyi's picturesque peaks. The sun cast its rays deep into the valleys, where Nine Bend Creek wound its way through the green mountains. Looking around, Yinping, Yuhua and Jiesun peaks loomed like screens in the south. Further away, Wuyi's many other peaks, all with descriptive-sounding names, are dwarfed by Sanyang Peak, Wuyi's highest peak at 717.7 metres.

Tianyou Peak, situated between the fifth and sixth bends of Nine Bend Creek, is bounded by water on three sides. Bamboo rafts start out in the early morning and sail from the Seventh Bend to the foot of Tianyou Peak, where tourists either get off to climb up the peak or continue downstream to the Fifth Bend.

A River Cruise Through Wuyi Mountain

Although one has a wonderful view of Wuyi from Tianyou Peak, the best way to appreciate the scenery is from ground level, sitting on a bamboo raft as it cruises downstream.

Climbing Tianyou Peak along the plank stairway when it is shrouded in fog is almost like walking on air.

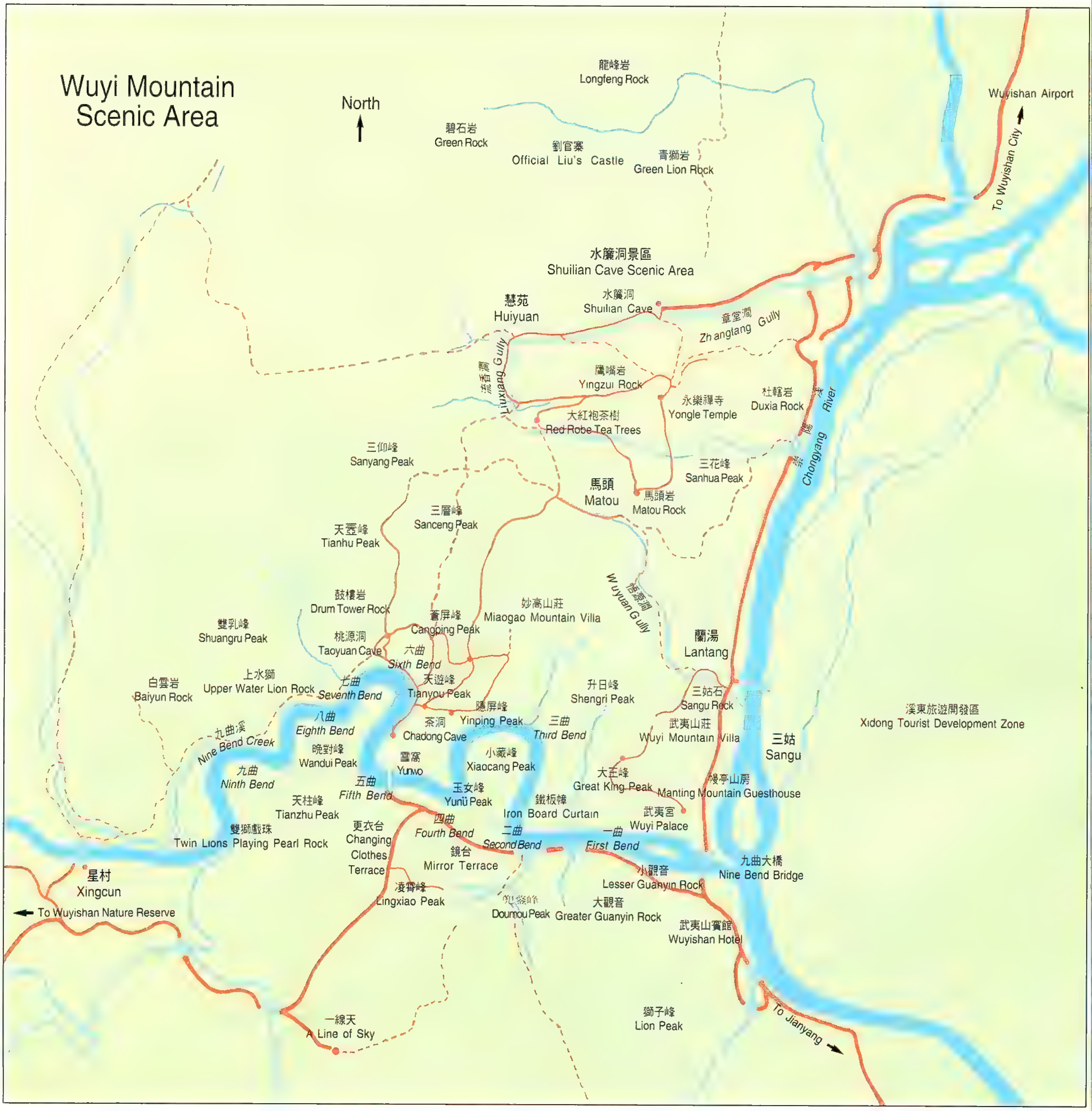
Taoyuan (Peach Garden) Cave Scenic Area

Covering an area of 550 hectares, this area includes such scenic sights as the Peach Garden Cave, Drum Tower Rock, Golden Brick Pool, Kaiyuan Hall, Green Cloud Cave, Stony Pearl Rock, North Corridor Rock, Sanceng (Three Tier) Peak and Sanyang Peak.

Taoyuan (Peach Garden) Cave To reach this cave, walk upriver from the north of the Sixth Bend to Squirrel Cave. After about half a kilometre, the path seems to reach an end, but closer up one can see a small entrance, large enough for only one person to pass through at a time, which leads to another small cave. After exiting the cave, one is met with a stone gate which stands in front of Peach Garden Cave. Inside this cave, it is very spacious and here one can see such sites as Kaiyuan Hall, Longevity Peach Stone, Golden Brick Pool, Peach Garden and Bamboo Grove.

Sanyang (Three Rise) Peak At 717.7 metres above sea level, this is the highest peak in the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area. Looking into the distance from Sanyang Peak, one has a view which encompasses all the graceful mountain peaks of Wuyi Mountain. In the past, the common route up the peak was to set out from Huiyuan Pit on the northern side of the slope, turn west at Zhangtang Gully and spiral one's way up to the summit. Now a stone path has been chiselled out between Little Peach Garden and the summit, making the climb much easier.

Sanceng (Three Tier) Peak South of Sanyang Peak, this peak stands opposite Little Peach Garden and actually consists of three summits. They are called "Wuyi's Weather Forecasting Station" because before it rains, clouds and fog gather around the three peaks and when it turns fine, they disperse immediately.


Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area
North
龍峰岩
Longfeng Rock
碧石岩
Green Rock
劉官寨
Official Liu's Castle
青獅岩
Green Lion Rock
Wuyishan Airport
To Wuyishan City
水簾洞景區
Shuilian Cave Scenic Area
慧苑
Huiyuan
水簾洞
Shuilian Cave
章堂澗
Zhangtang Gully
流香澗
Liuxiang Gully
鷹嘴岩
Yingzui Rock
永樂禪寺
Yongle Temple
杜轄岩
Duxia Rock
崇陽溪
Chongyang River
大紅袍茶樹
Red Robe Tea Trees
三仰峰
Sanyang Peak
三花峰
Sanhua Peak
馬頭
Matou
馬頭岩
Matou Rock
三層峰
Sanceng Peak
天壺峰
Tianhu Peak
梧源澗
Wuyuan Gully
鼓樓岩
Drum Tower Rock
妙高山莊
Miaogao Mountain Villa
蒼屏峰
Cangping Peak
雙乳峰
Shuangru Peak
桃源洞
Taoyuan Cave
六曲
Sixth Bend
蘭湯
Lantang
白雲岩
Baiyun Rock
上水獅
Upper Water Lion Rock
七曲
Seventh Bend
天遊峰
Tianyou Peak
升日峰
Shengri Peak
三姑石
Sangu Rock
溪東旅遊開發區
Xidong Tourist Development Zone
八曲
Eighth Bend
茶洞
Chadong Cave
隱屏峰
Yinping Peak
三曲
Third Bend
武夷山莊
Wuyi Mountain Villa
三姑
Sangu
九曲溪
Nine Bend Creek
晚對峰
Wandui Peak
雲窩
Yunwo
小藏峰
Xiaocang Peak
九曲
Ninth Bend
五曲
Fifth Bend
玉女峰
Yunü Peak
大王峰
Great King Peak
幔亭山房
Manting Mountain Guesthouse
天柱峰
Tianzhu Peak
鐵板嶂
Iron Board Curtain
武夷宮
Wuyi Palace
雙獅戲珠
Twin Lions Playing Pearl Rock
更衣台
Changing Clothes Terrace
四曲
Fourth Bend
二曲
Second Bend
一曲
First Bend
九曲大橋
Nine Bend Bridge
鏡台
Mirror Terrace
小觀音
Lesser Guanyin Rock
星村
Xingcun
凌霄峰
Lingxiao Peak
Doumou Peak
大觀音
Greater Guanyin Rock
武夷山賓館
Wuyishan Hotel
To Wuyishan Nature Reserve
一線天
A Line of Sky
獅子峰
Lion Peak
To Jianyang

From Sanyang Peak, the highest point on Wuyi Mountain, one has the best view of the beautiful sea of clouds (by Zheng Huajin).

A story told by this Taoist monk at Fox Cave about the dedicated love of Zhu Xi, a noted scholar of the Song Dynasty, added an air of mystery to the place.

Top: *A distant view of Yinping Peak reveals a tiny Taoist temple called Fox Cave inlaid in the cliffs (by Wang Miao).*
Bottom: *Though Peach Garden Cave is located in a quiet and secluded spot by the Sixth Bend, Taoist nuns must sometimes temporarily give up their solitude to serve visitors from afar.*

One of the most breathtaking routes is to climb Tianyou Peak along the narrow walkway on the cliffs.

The Nine Bend Creek Scenic Area River Cruise

This area of 850 hectares provides the visitor with some of the most densely-packed and unique sights in the entire Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area. The cruise, 7.5 kilometres long, takes about two hours, and each bend has its own scenic attractions.

First Bend: The section in front of Wuyi Palace and Qingchuan embraces Great King Peak, Manting Peak, Changing Bones Rock, Sangu Rock, Iron Board Curtain, Water Light Rock, the Greater and Lesser Guanyin Rocks and Doumou (Helmet) Peak.

Second Bend: Starting upstream from Yuxiang (Fragrance Bath) Pool at the foot of Yunü (Jade Girl) Peak, this section passes Mirror Terrace, Immortal's Name List Rock and Immortal's Hall Rock.

Third Bend: The creek turns southward here at Leike Shoal, forming a bend. This section is known for sights such as Xiaocang Peak, Immortal's Tour Rock, Shengri (Rising Sun) Peak, and Travel Expense Rock. Looking upward, one can also see the coffins suspended high on the precipitous cliffs over 3,000 years ago by the ancient people of the State of Yue.

Fourth Bend: Stretching between the Xiandiao (Immortal's Angling) Terrace and the Lesser Nine Bends, this spot offers a view of Dacang Peak, Immortal's Angling Terrace, Sleeping Dragon Pool, Golden Rooster Cave, Inscription Rock, the Royal Tea Garden, Sword Testing Rock and the Lesser Nine Bends.

Fifth Bend: This bend lies between the Lesser Nine Bends and the Pinglin Ferry at Cloud Nest. Along the way one can see Yinping Peak, Jiesun Peak, the Wuyi Fairy's House, Cloud Nest and Tea Cave.

Sixth Bend: Flowing between Thundering Rock and Laoya (Crow) Shoal, this section passes Tianyou Peak, Cloth Drying Rock, Cangping (Green Screen) Peak and Thundering Rock.

Seventh Bend: This part flows from Crow Shoal westward to Takong (Otter Controlling) Shoal near Baihua (Hundred Flower) Village. One can see Sanyang Peak, Sanceng Peak, North Corridor Rock, Tianhu (Heavenly Pot) Peak, Stony Pearl Rock and City Height Rock.

Eighth Bend: Located between the eastern and western ends of Furong (Hibiscus) Shoal, this section features Upper Water Lion Rock, the Upper and Lower Turtle Rocks, Elephant Trunk Rock, Camel Peak, Cat Rock, Frog Rock, Bull Pool and Human Face Rock.

Ninth Bend: This section runs in shallow water near Curtain Rock and Xingcun Town. Major scenic sights here include Qiyun Peak, Curtain Rock, White Cloud Rock, Twin Lions Playing with a Pearl Rock and Peacock-Displaying Rock.

The Second Bend is where the bamboo raft cruises end. From here the rafts will be carried to Xingcun Village where they will begin the cruise once again (by Wang Miao).

A cruise along Nine Bend Creek on a bamboo raft is one of the most enjoyable ways to see the sights of Wuyi Mountain.

Ancient inscriptions can be found on the cliffs along Nine Bend Creek. Some of them record how officials supervised tea production for the royal court at the Imperial Tea Garden.

Nine Bend Creek originates from the Wuyi Mountain Nature Reserve and makes nine turns along its nine-kilometre course through the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area. In the past, visitors customarily went upstream, but these days rafting downstream is more popular. To reach the starting point of the river cruise I went by bus to Xingcun Dock, where rafts, each carrying four to six people, depart as soon as they have enough passengers.

After our raft left the Ninth Bend it soon entered an area of rapids. Water started splashing over the raft, so I decided to take off my shoes and socks and stick my feet in the cool water. The roar of the river echoed in the valley, and the water was so clear I could see the pebbles on the bottom. Clouds were sailing overhead, putting the finishing touch on this masterpiece of nature.

The helmsman steered the raft with a pole, which he used to push us away from rocks and other hazards. Pointing at the peaks and rocks, he told stories about each sight. I looked at the peaks I had seen from Tianyou Peak and was able only to name a few of them by looking at their shape. Many more were totally beyond recognition, as I now saw them from an entirely different angle.

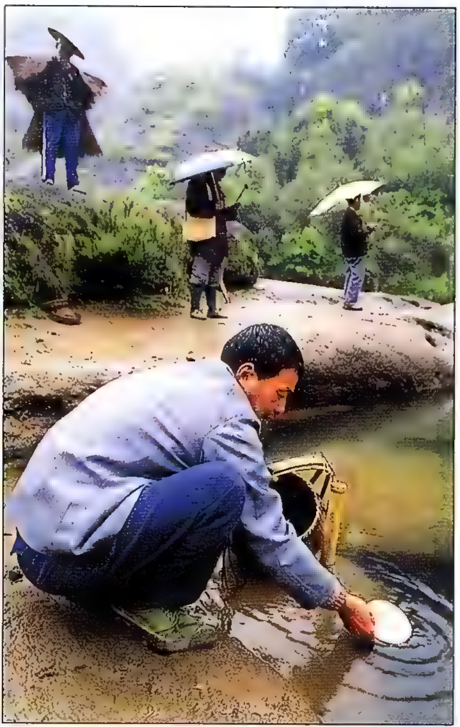
At the Seventh Bend our raft made a sudden turn and we came face to face with a huge rock scored with vertical lines, scoured out by centuries of flowing water. They look a bit like strips of white cloth, hence its name, Shaibu (Cloth Drying) Rock.

At the Fifth and Fourth Bends, we sailed past Jiesun Peak, Yinping Peak, and six other peaks and scenic spots, each with an interesting story behind it. The only complaint I could think of was that the water here is so fast that the raft sails by the sights too quickly, and I could never get enough of the graceful mountain scenery.

Ascending the Perilous Great King Peak

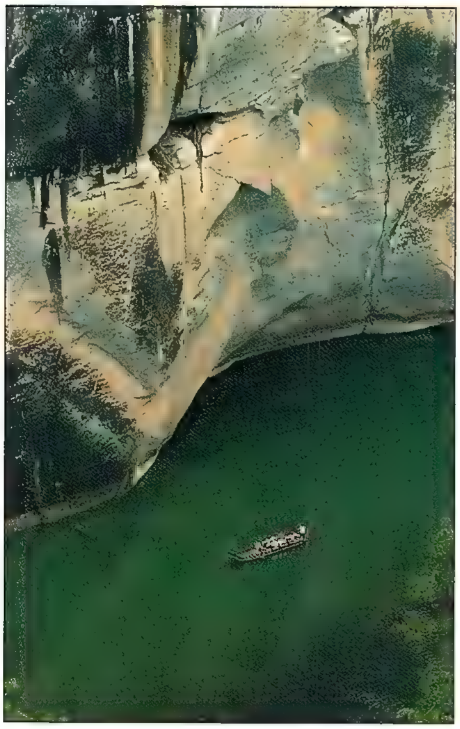
Xiaocang (Lesser Hidden) Peak, also known as Fairy Boat Rock, stands majestically over the Third Bend. Looking up from the raft, I saw several objects sandwiched in the cliff face. Some were in the shape of wooden boards and some resembled boats, thus they are called Hongqiao (Rainbow Bridge) Boards and Jiahe (Over-Gully) Boats. Studies indicate that they are actually suspended coffins, where the early settlers of Wuyi Mountain "buried" their dead over 3,000 years ago. Just how they managed to get the coffins up the sheer cliffs remains a mystery today.

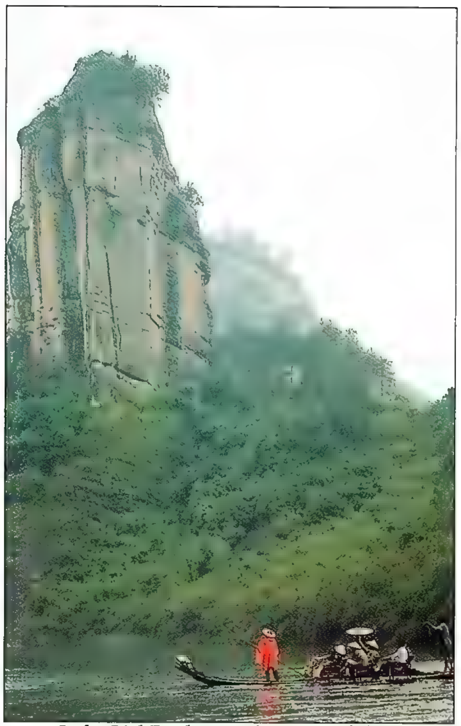
Next comes the Second Bend, where Yunü (Jade Girl) Peak, by far the most beautiful peak of Wuyi Mountain, stands by the river as if welcoming those coming downstream. Most visitors leave the raft and go ashore here. From the river bank one has a good view of Jade Girl Peak and Dawang (Great King) Peak opposite. The magnificence of Great King Peak and the slender gracefulness of Jade Girl Peak form a lovely contrast. There is even a love story often told about Jade Girl and the Great King that is based on these mountains.



Visitors to the mountain include many faithful followers of the Buddhist religion. Led by monks, they set fish free in Nine Bend Creek (by Xie Guanghui).

In the cliff face of Lesser Hidden Peak at the Third Bend one can see the remains of the coffins where ancient people used to put their dead.





Jade Girl Peak, standing gracefully by the Second Bend, has become a symbol of Wuyi Mountain.

Wuyi Palace Scenic Area

The Wuyi Palace Scenic Area covers 350 hectares and boasts such major tourist attractions as Wuyi Palace, Great King Peak, Manting Peak, Changing Bones Rock, Sangu Rock, Everlasting Spring Garden, Zhizhi Nunnery, Water Light Rock and a street built in imitation Song-dynasty style.

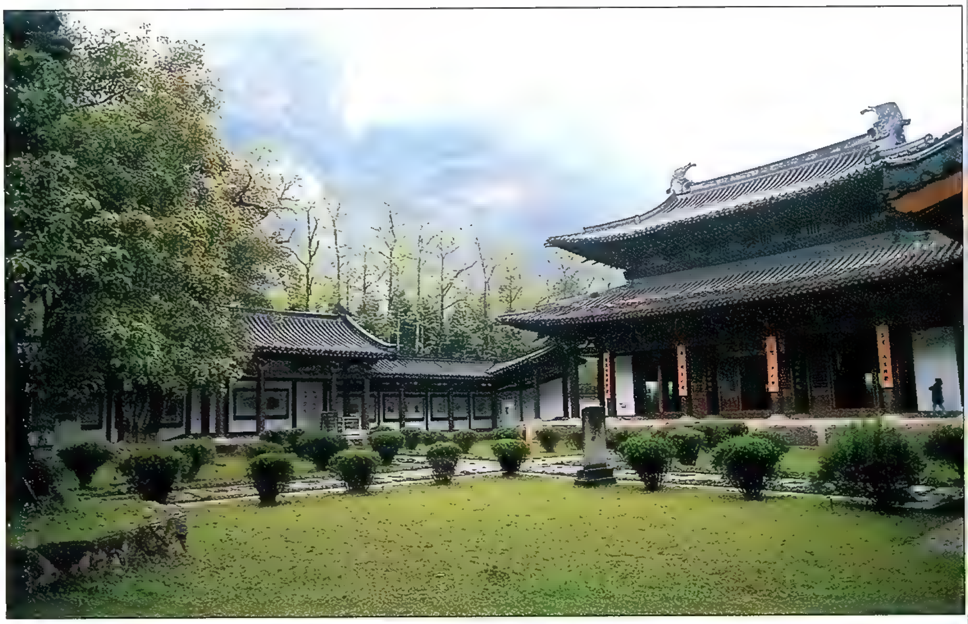
Wuyi Palace On the southern slope of Great King Peak, this temple is the oldest on Wuyi Mountain. Between the years of 742 and 755 in the Tang Dynasty, Tianbao (Heavenly Treasure) Hall was completed. In 1009, more than 300 buildings were added and in 1095 it went through another expansion. In 1328, it first got the name of palace when it became known as the Wannian (Ten Thousand Year) Palace. In recent years, large-scale construction has resulted in the Zhu Xi Memorial Museum, the Song-dynasty street, Bidan Restaurant, Manting Mountain Guesthouse, Peng Zu's Mountain Villa, Green Smoke Store and a teahouse, all built in ancient architectural styles. Those interested can continue to walk further up and enjoy the exquisite scenery at Wanchun (Everlasting Spring) Garden, Zhizhi Nunnery and Water Light Rock.

Great King Peak This is the first peak to greet visitors who arrive at Wuyi Mountain, and as its name suggests, is considered the king of all of Wuyi's 36 peaks. Rising 530 metres above sea level, the peak is large at the top but small and thin at the bottom. Enclosed by sheer cliffs, it looks both menacing and majestic. On the southern side, stairs have been built along a crack which lead to the top.

Manting (Curtain Pavilion) Peak Standing north of Great King Peak, this peak has a rather flat top on which is a huge rock in the shape of a tripod incense burner. It is said that Master Wuyi used to put up a curtained pavilion here to throw parties in honour of fellow villagers, giving rise to the peak's present name.

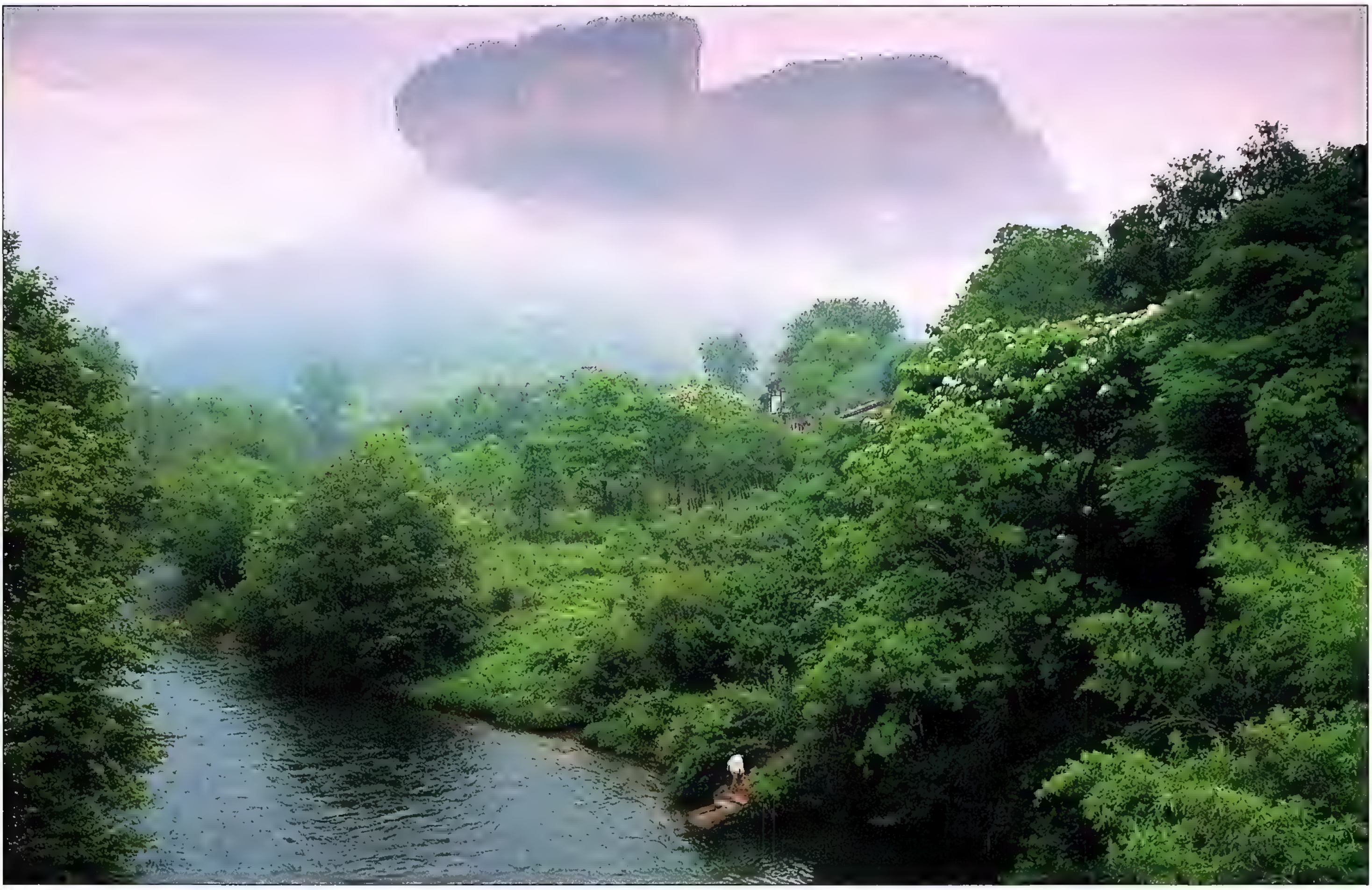
An ancient stone general at Wuyi Palace

Wannian Palace inside Wuyi Palace has been recently renovated. It is now open to the public as the Zhu Xi Memorial Museum (by Xie Guanghui).



The famous Ming-dynasty traveller Xu Xiake climbed Great King Peak via this gate.

Great King Peak at the entrance to Nine Bend Creek is always shrouded with clouds and mist.



Rare species of plants and different kinds of flower pots can be bought at Wanchun Garden at the foot of Great King Peak.

Shuilian (Water Curtain) Cave Scenic Area

The largest scenic area on Wuyi Mountain, this region is located north of the Tianxin (Heavenly Heart) Scenic Area and covers 1,700 hectares. Major spots of interest include Water Curtain Cave, Green Lion Rock, Mituo Rock, Clear Source Rock, Lianhua (Lotus) Peak, Official Liu's Castle and Green Rock.

Shuilian (Water Curtain) Cave The largest cave at Wuyi Mountain, this is over 100 metres both in height and width. Two springs bring water from a height of over 100 metres to the entrance of the cave throughout the year. The cave houses a large collection of rock carvings, altars dedicated to three outstanding scholars of the Song Dynasty and statues of Confucius, Lao Zi and Sakyamuni Buddha.

Longfeng (Dragon Peak) This is a huge mountain north of Shuilian Cave. A gigantic rock here tilts upward looking a bit like a dragon's tongue. Next to it is a rock resembling the head of a dragon, which leads one along the stone path on the dragon's "back" and right to the end of the tail. Several kilometres west of this peak is Green Rock, a mountain peak that features a temple and some ruins of old houses. Shuixian tea plants cover the mountain slopes.

Qingshi (Green Lion) Rock North of Shuilian Cave, this rock is in the shape of a crouching lion. Nearby is Nine Dragon Rock, at whose foot is the mysterious Nine Star Spring.

The Tianxin (Heavenly Heart) Scenic Area

Located on the northern side of Wuyi Mountain, this area spreads over 450 hectares and is dotted with scenic attractions such as Zhangtang Gully, Eagle Beak Rock, Heavenly Towers, Yuzhu (Jade Pillar) Peak, Flowing Fragrance Gully, Sanhua (Three Flower) Peak, Duxia Rock, the Red Robe Tea Trees, Horse Head Rock and Yongle Temple.

Tianchejia (Heavenly Towers) About a quarter kilometre west of Zhangtang Gully are several caves and rooms built halfway up the mountain. During the reign of Emperor Xianfeng (1851-1861), local gentry had these structures built to escape from the Taiping Army who were revolting against the Qing Court.

For this reason, they are quite hard to reach. However, if one goes to the mountaintop from the side of Danxiazhang Peak, and then is bold enough to come downhill through the woods, he will find himself in one of the Heavenly Towers.

Yingzui (Eagle Beak) Rock About 100 metres west of the Heavenly Towers is an enormous barren rock resembling an eagle. Its eastern end protrudes like a beak, and when looked at from the path along Zhangtang Gully the rock does indeed resemble an eagle ready to take wing.

Liuxiang (Flowing Fragrance) Gully To the north of Tianxin Rock, this gully is flanked by red cliffs and grey rocks. A turn at its northern end takes one to an ideal summer retreat area, called Qingliang (Cool and Refreshing) Valley. Soon out of this valley, one will see Feilai Peak, behind which is Yuzhu Peak.

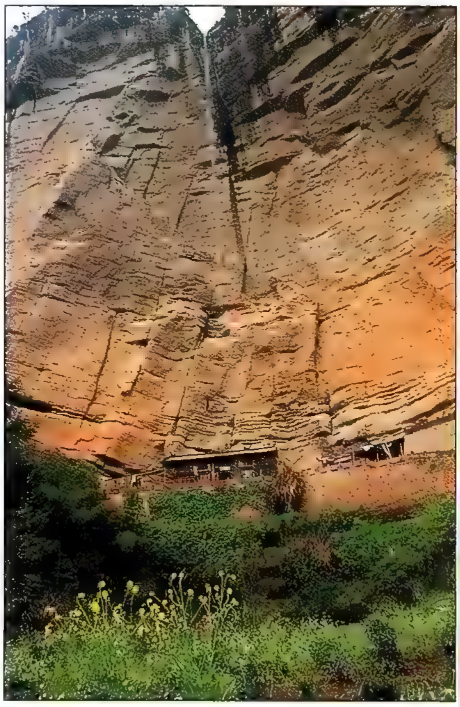
Dahongpao (Red Robe) Tea Trees The valley called Nine Dragon Nest is full of tea plants, and the Red Robe Tea Tree is known as the king of all tea plants, due to its special taste and medicinal properties.

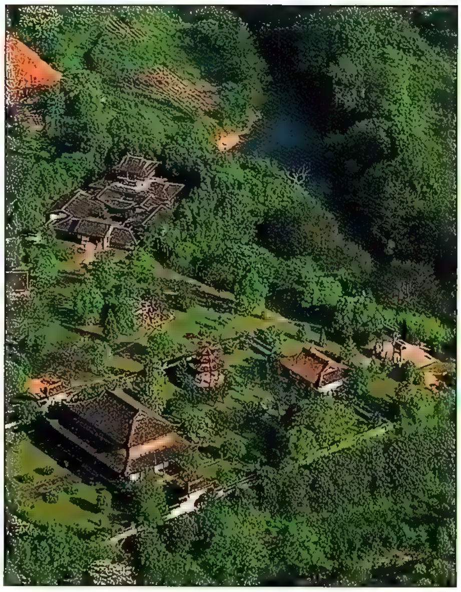
Sanhua (Three Flower) Peak The three huge, magnificent crags on the northern slope of Horse Head Ridge are known as Sanhua Peak. Wooden ladders and stone steps along a crack lead to the top of the peak, where one is greeted by three bold characters meaning "Half Sky Ghost". They actually refer to a particular kind of tea of that name grown here on the peak.

Matou (Horse Head) Rock This is a lofty peak which received its name from its resemblance to a steed. Five rocks standing in a row on the north of Horse Head Rock seem to be five galloping horses, and nearby are Horse Saddle Rock, Chinese Parasol Crack, Iron Hammer Village and Wuyuan Gully. Of the two mountain paths here, one turns southeast, passing Paifeng Rock and Sangu Rock to Lantang and Wuyi Palace; the other goes southwest through Wuyuan Gully and over a small mountain ridge to Tianyou Peak.

Yongle Temple At the foot of Tianxin Rock, Yongle Temple was originally called Tianxin Yongle Nunnery. In 1528, a Taoist monk by the name of Han Dongxu had it rebuilt and renamed it Tianxin Nunnery, and used it as a place for visiting Taoist guests to stay. The place went through another expansion during the Qing Dynasty, when it was given the name of Yongle Temple. The atmosphere here is one of great peace and serenity. Departments concerned have decided to restore Yongle Temple and encourage the holding of Buddhist activities.

Water Curtain Cave is the largest cave on Wuyi Mountain (by Xie Guanghui).





Middle: *Souvenir shops offer a wide range of native products such as painted paper umbrellas.*

Below: *A bird's-eye view of both ancient buildings (foreground) and the more modern ones built to imitate them (background) shows the contrast between history and progress.*

Great King Peak rises abruptly from the ground. Enclosed by cliffs, the mountain is thinner at the bottom and larger at the top. Its flat summit can be seen from almost anywhere on Wuyi Mountain. Of the several peaks tourists usually climb, Great King Peak poses the greatest difficulty. Precisely because of this challenge, it has always been the target of the more adventurous visitors. It was here that Xu Xiake, the noted Ming-dynasty traveller, began his trip into the mountains. In fact the path going up Great King Peak is marked with a stone arched gate which has the words "Xu Xiake entered the mountain from here" carved on it.

Halfway up the mountain, the path suddenly disappeared in the cliffs and all I could see was the "crown" of the mountaintop. The cliffs were so straight they were nearly vertical. It seemed as though there was no way up. A closer look, however, revealed a crack about a foot wide laid with steps made of stone or wood. Where the space narrowed, there were holes on both sides to put one's hands. If you dare, you can ascend this narrow path with the help of the hanging ladders and stone holes. The further up you go the narrower the path becomes, and at certain places you can only pass by turning sideways.

On the way up I passed Immortal Zhang's Rock, said to be where Zhang Gai, a Buddhist monk of the Han Dynasty, died while sitting in the meditation position. Two more ladders up, I looked down into a bottomless crevice. Still further up, suddenly a flat space appeared, the original site of the Shengtian (Ascending the Sky) Temple. From here, after stepping over Tongtian (Leading to the Sky) Terrace then climbing up one more stone stairway, I was finally on top of the peak.

The view from the mountaintop lays bare the entire terrain of Wuyi Mountain. Nine Bend Creek and the 36 peaks start in the west and roll gradually towards the east in reducing altitude. In the south is a flat plain where Nine Bend Creek merges with the Chongyang River, looking like silk ribbons on a piece of blue brocade. Down on the east side of the mountain, houses are separated by green forests and grassland. Many of the buildings there are built in the ancient courtyard style, including Wuyi Palace and the two hotels — the Manting (Curtain Pavilion) Mountain House and the Wuyi Mountain Villa. From here one has the best view of the elegant architecture and the Song-dynasty style street down below.

On the east bank of the Chongyang River is a large area of dug-up earth set in the middle of expansive green fields. The Wuyi Mountain Holiday Development Area is under construction. It is difficult to imagine how this grand, modern holiday project will fit in with the natural surroundings and ancient-style buildings, but not even this will change the timeless atmosphere of this magical mountain.

Translated by Huang Youyi

In the Tianxin Scenic Area one can see these caves called Tianchejia, where Qing-dynasty gentry hid from the Taiping Army (by Xie Guanghui).

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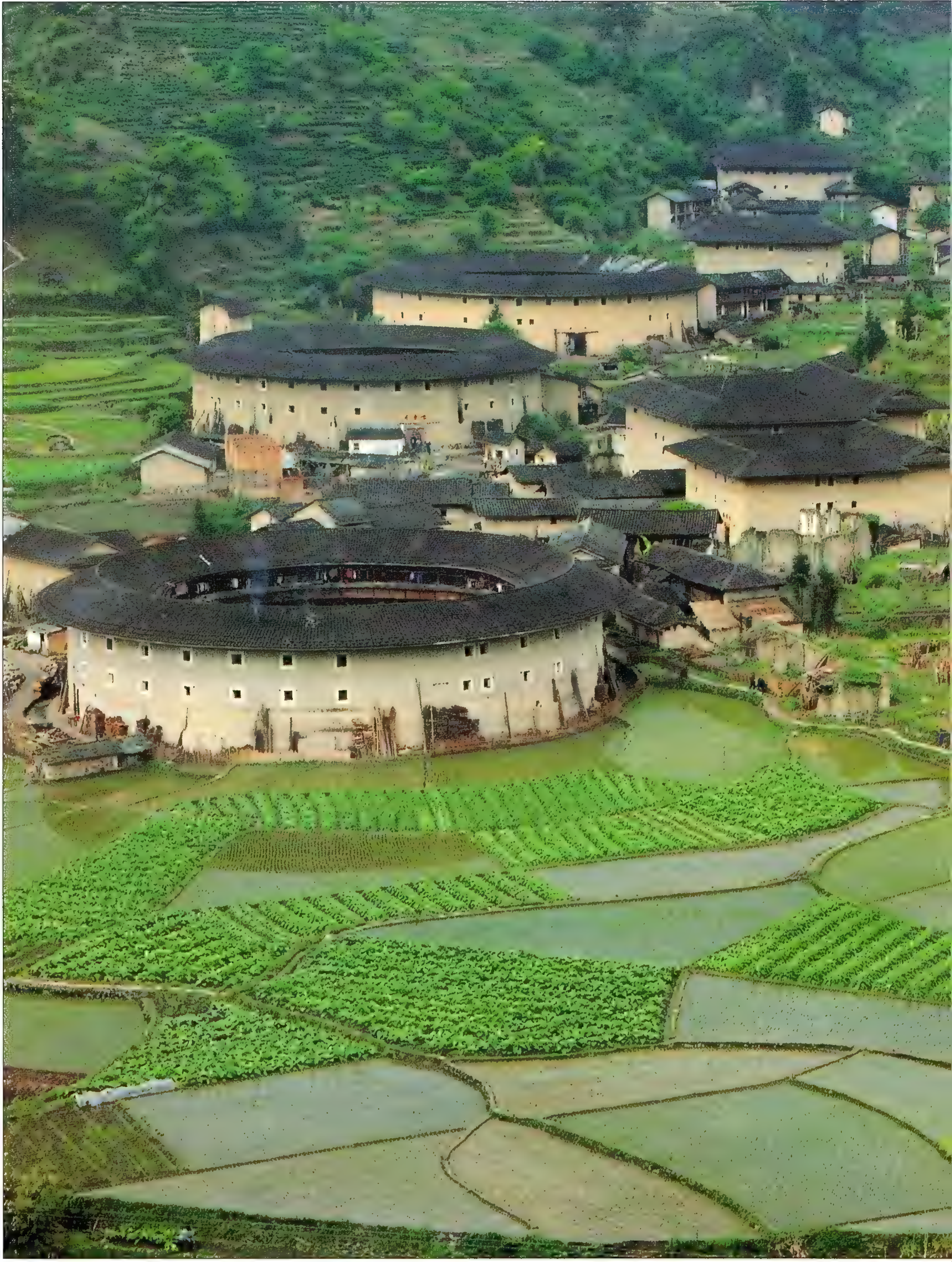
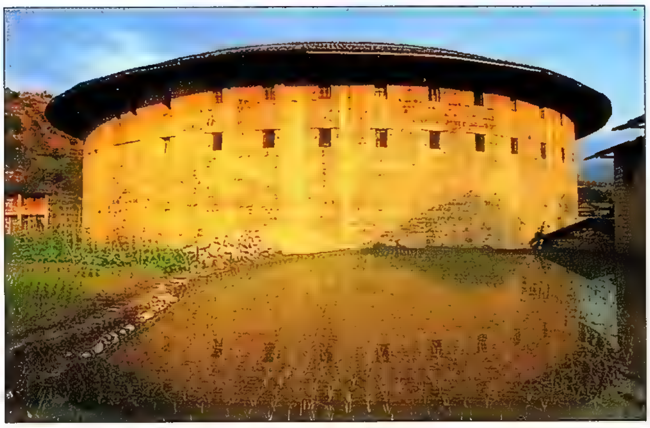


Exploring Western Fujian's Hakka Villages

PHOTOS BY XIE GUANGHUI
ARTICLE BY GUANG HUI & JIAN NAN

It is said that these earthen Hakka buildings were once mistaken by U.S. reconnaissance satellites as a launching base for rockets (1). Defence was the top priority when constructing Hakka earthen buildings in Yongding (2). The puppet shows of the Hakka in Yongding closely resemble traditional puppet shows from Pucheng in Shaanxi Province (3). The Central Plains custom of bringing gifts to celebrate the one-month birthday of babies is still practised in western Fujian (4). The unique Meilin Opera in Taining (5).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There were three noticeable social upheavals in China's history, namely the rebellion of the eight princes in the Western Jin Dynasty (265-316), Huang Chao's uprising at the end of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the invasion of the Jin troops at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). During these periods, the shadow of death born of war, natural disasters and pestilence caused a mass exodus of people who left the Yellow River plains and sought refuge in the south. Some of these people, after crossing the Yangtse River, traversing what is now Jiangxi Province and tramping over the Wuyi Mountain Range, finally reached western Fujian Province.

They immediately fell in love with the region's green mountains, fertile lands and pleasant climate. Their protracted journey at an end, they settled down and built their new homes in this hilly virgin land. These people began to be called the "Hakka", which means "guest families", thus distinguishing them from the native people there. In the next thousand or so years, the Hakka spread out to all parts of the world. A considerable number emigrated to Southeast Asia as well as Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. When asked of their ancestry, they all say that their ancestral home is in western Fujian.

A Visit to Taining, a Hakka Ancestral Home

Early last summer, a group of people interested in tracing the ancestry of the Hakka took a trip to Wuyi Mountain in Fujian Province to retrace the steps of the ancient Central Plains people who settled down in the south.

We drove south from Wuyishan City (originally Chong'an County) along the highway circling the southern foot of Wuyi Mountain. On both sides the undulating green hills were separated by peaceful valleys. Streams flowed through the valleys and tile-roofed farmhouses were nestled amidst green bamboo groves. After we passed the town of Jianxi, the mountain slopes became much less steep. It was already 5:00 in the afternoon by the time we reached Taining, where we drove about for a while before it got dark.

In Futang Lane we came upon a "Minister's Mansion", formerly the residence of a Minister of Defence in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The house consisted of five main buildings and eight auxiliary buildings with five doors in a straight line. There were over 120 rooms in all, and every passageway, courtyard and corridor was paved with granite. A stone horizontal board was inlaid over each door of the house, and the frames of these boards were all carved with exquisite ornamental designs. In fact, this "Minister's Mansion" is one of the largest and most well-preserved Ming-dynasty residences extant in Fujian Province.

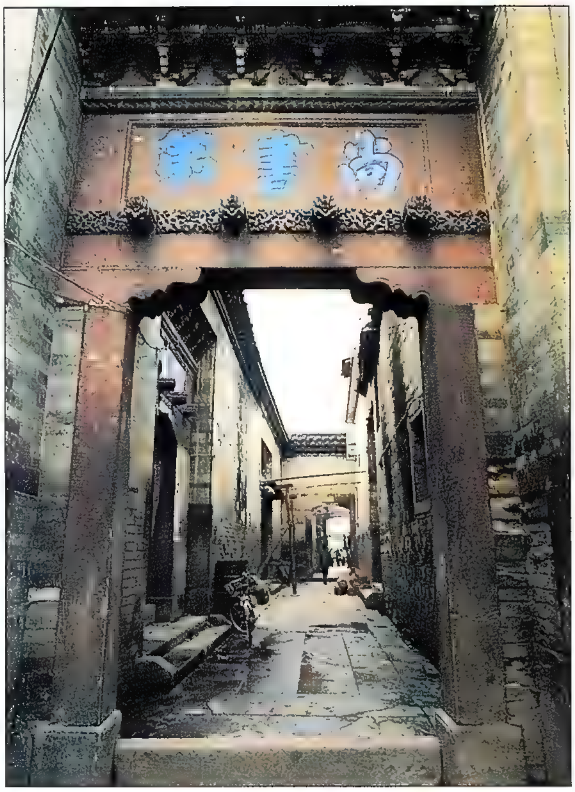
We also saw an entire block of Ming residential houses in the vicinity of the Minister's Mansion. Not only are the buildings in the architectural style of that time, the residents in this area still drink from several wells dug in the Ming Dynasty. On the railings around these wells, one can still see the inscribed titles of the Ming emperors' reigns, such as "Longqing" and "Wanli". Apart from the elaborately built ancient houses, Taining also boasts a wonderful local opera called Meilin Opera, popular in the towns along the border between Fujian and Jiangxi.

Perhaps the most bizarre sight in Taining, however, is the coffins at Yanxia Cave, located near the entrance of Zhangdi Village. Over 100 new coffins are stored under the cave's 100-metre-high cliff. Storing new coffins is a traditional custom here. Everyone in the village, both male and female, has a coffin made at his or her birth, which is then stored in Yanxia Cave. In case a person from some other place unfortunately dies here, his relatives or friends can enter Yanxia Cave and choose any of the coffins for their dearly departed. When the owner of the reserved coffin finds that his coffin is missing, rather than get angry he instead feels very happy. He will then ask workmen to make a new coffin and store it again in Yanxia Cave. The reason for this happiness lies not so much in a sense of charity as in the local belief that a person will get a new lease on life if one's reserved coffin is used by someone else.

Raw Fish, a Local Delicacy

After departing from Taining, we drove westward into a very mountainous region. Our car spiralled and bumped on until we reached Jianning, where we

A sketch map of Zhangdi Village found in the **Zhang Clan's Genealogical Records** *(1).* ■ *The hall in a farmer's house in western Fujian (2).* ■ *The Minister's Mansion in Taining is a grand building constructed during the Ming Dynasty (3).* ■ *Residents of villages in hilly western Fujian need strong legs (4).* ■ *At Yanxia Cave in Zhangdi Village over 100 coffins are kept in storage. Some of them will stay here for many years, for their owners are still young boys and girls (5).*



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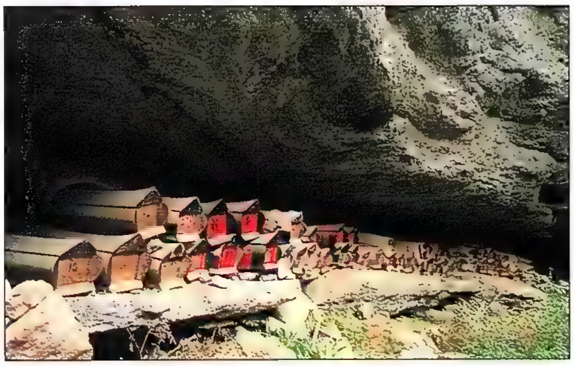

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turned south. The outlines of the mountains in this section of road looked much more gentle and the scenery more serene than earlier on. At the county seat of Ninghua, we entered the Hakka Hotel, whose Chinese restaurant boasts a famous dish simply called "raw fish".

The preparation of "raw fish" is worth watching. The cook first takes a live grass carp weighing about two kilos from the restaurant's fish pond and puts it on the table. He holds the fish's head, which is wrapped in a piece of cloth, scrapes off the fish scales and then cuts open the fish's belly to remove the viscera. After rinsing it in water, he pulls off the skin and picks out all the bones. After all the water and blood have been absorbed by a clean towel, the fish meat looks as white as snow.

The Hakka cook is well versed in the art of using a knife, being both fast and confident in his movements. Soon a plate of tender fresh raw fish slices is placed on the table and sprinkled with a mixture of sesame oil, vinegar, spring onions and ginger. Every fish slice is paper-thin, tender and very delicious.

Shibi (Stone Wall) Township, located 25 kilometres from Ninghua County seat, is where the ancestors of many Hakka people residing in eastern Guangdong Province, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan used to live.

In those days Shibi actually covered a large basin with an area of over 300 square kilometres. The mighty Wuyi Mountain Range to its northeast and northwest provided a natural defensive barrier. More than 200 villages were scattered throughout this region of undulating hills and mountain streams. In times of turmoil, therefore, this was an ideal sanctuary. Ever since the Tang Dynasty, no war has ever hit these towns and villages. Not even Huang Chao's insurrectionary troops and the invading Japanese army in the 1940s have disturbed this haven of peace.

According to local chronicles and genealogical records, during the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period (907-979) the ancestors of the Hakka people set up their second home here, maintaining the customs and life style of the Central Plains. Over a period of about 400 years, a unique Hakka cultural area gradually developed. In its heyday, people bearing some 100 different Central Plains surnames lived here, and counted among them were several important historical figures.

Thousand-Year-Old Hakka Customs

Shibi today is much smaller than it originally was, consisting of only 20-odd villages with a population of over 2,000, all of whom share only six different surnames. This is because as the community grew and developed, this remote basin could neither accommodate a growing population, nor could it prevent people of exceptional ability from leaving. In the last hundred years or so, many Hakka families have left for distant lands to pursue their dreams. However, the thousand-year-old customs of the Hakka people are still alive and well.

In front of Shibi Village stands a small, simple temple built entirely of grey bricks and tiles. Unlike residences and temples in other parts of southern China which are built mostly of wood and have high walls and wide eaves, this temple has no eaves and the doors and windows all have brick protruding arches. A stroll through Shibi Village immediately reveals that all the relatively old houses, like the small temple, still retain the architectural style of the ancient Central Plains.

What impressed us most as we visited households in Shibi Village was the hospitality of the people. As soon as a guest enters a Hakka house, the hostess offers a drink of their famous "pounded tea". Unlike the pounded tea of Hunan, Shibi pounded tea comes in two varieties: "meat" tea and "vegetable" tea.

Naturally, hosts always treat guests from afar with "meat" pounded tea as it is more expensive to make. To prepare this delicacy, apart from tea leaves, about a dozen different ingredients are placed in a special earthen pot, including soya beans, mung beans, lentils, parched rice, peanuts, bean sheet jelly and various Chinese medicinal herbs such as Asian plantain and Chinese mugwort leaves. Then, using a one-metre long camphorwood stick which hangs by a rope from the roof beam, the ingredients in the earthern pot are pounded until they turn into a kind of thick paste. The paste is then put into a pot filled with hot water, and stir-fried pork and dried bean vermicelli are added. Finally, some spring onion bits are sprinkled on the concoction and one pot of "meat" pounded tea is ready for serving.

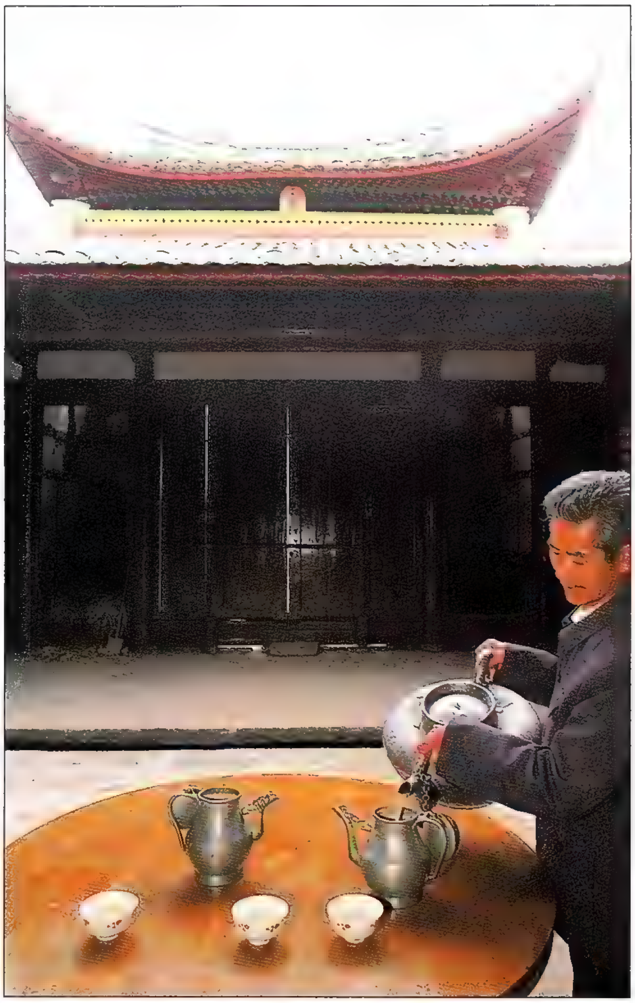
Pounded tea is a favourite drink of the people in Shibi. In summer, some people drink several cups of pounded tea in place of lunch, because besides quenching one's thirst and cooling one off, it can also allay hunger. When asked about the origin of pounded tea, local people said that it can be traced back to a medicinal drink prepared by their ancestors from the Central Plains which was made by pounding fresh medicinal herbs and putting them in hot water. Later, due to the hasty departure of the first Hakka when they made their exodus south, it was impossible to prepare meals quickly, therefore they just added food to the medicinal drink. Over the years this developed into pounded tea, which serves the triple purpose of guarding against illness, quenching one's thirst and staving off hunger.

A Hakka Wedding

Today in Shibi Village the young Hakka people, despite the fact that they wear fashionable dresses, ride motorcycles or enjoy modern dances, still hold wedding ceremonies strictly according to the unique Hakka tradition.

The greater part of the Hakka wedding rites take place in the bride's home, and only at midnight does the bride leave her parents' home. In the dark of night, the bridegroom and his family members, holding torches and beating drums and gongs, walk across forests and fields to the bride's home. A "negotiation" between representatives from both the bride's and groom's sides then begins until an "agreement" is finally reached. This is all part of the ceremony: in fact, everything is arranged long before. Then an old lady specially invited to act as the master of ceremonies takes charge of every detail involved in sending the girl to the bridegroom's home.

First, the old lady helps the bride put on her make-up, then helps her to check every article of her dowry. This is followed by a grand ceremony called "passing over the rice sifter". In the middle of the ancestral hall is a barrel full of unhusked rice with two red candles planted in it. Placed on the rice are a ruler, symbolizing "appropriately measuring out living expenses without waste", a pair of scissors, meaning "diligently doing needlework", and a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The Hakka people's genealogical records are displayed in their ancestral hall (1). ■ The Zhang Ancestral Hall in Shibi Village is the largest of its kind, with over 90 per cent of the villagers descendents of the Zhang family (2). ■ Preparing pounded tea is a complicated process (3). ■ The Hakka people always offer their guests home-made rice wine (4). ■ This unique shrine for paying homage to gods and ancestors is rarely seen elsewhere (5, by Cui Jiannan). ■ Shibi was the ancestral home of 107 Hakka families, so a great number of memorial tablets for their ancestors are on display today (6).

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mirror, suggesting "perceiving and removing stains to avoid disgrace". Undoubtedly, the rice barrel itself is a symbol of a plentiful life and a bright future.

A large rice sifter is put in front of the crowd, and the bride's new clothes are the first things that are passed over the sifter. The bride takes a bath in the side room, while the clothes that have just been passed over the sifter are sent into the room for her to put on. Then every article in the dowry is passed over the sifter before it is put into a new wooden suitcase. Afterwards, the bride's sisters-in-law take the rice sifter and walk three times around the red candles, which implies that all bad luck will be sieved off and the bride will bring good luck to her husband's home.

After the bath, the bride puts on a new red dress and her feet are no longer allowed to touch the ground. She is carried on the back of a family member and brought to sit in the ancestral hall, when the master of ceremony combs the bride's hair three times, washes her face three times and feeds her three mouthfuls of rice. This rite signifies an end to her girlhood and life in her parents' home. Then the same old lady helps the bride put on a bronze mirror to keep away evil and a small pouch full of rice and other grains.

Suddenly, mournful music comes from outside the ancestral hall, immediately bringing tears to the bride's eyes. The weeping girl is again carried on the back of a relative and out of the ancestral hall. As soon as she crosses the threshold, a member of her family splashes a whole basin of clear water in front of the door, an act symbolizing the wish that the new couple will have a happy life together.

The Earthen Dwellings of Yongding

Leaving Ninghua, we drove past Qingliu, Liancheng and Shanghang. In these places, people all talk in the Hakka dialect, albeit with slight differences from place to place — a far cry from the local Fujian dialect. In western Fujian there are many counties exclusively inhabited by the Hakka people, such as Wuping, Mingxi, Changting and Yongding, in addition to the counties mentioned above.

In Liancheng, there is a paper mill which makes Xuan rice paper and still utilizes a traditional water pump to make pulp. Unlike Xuan paper factories in Anhui Province, no machines are used in the entire production

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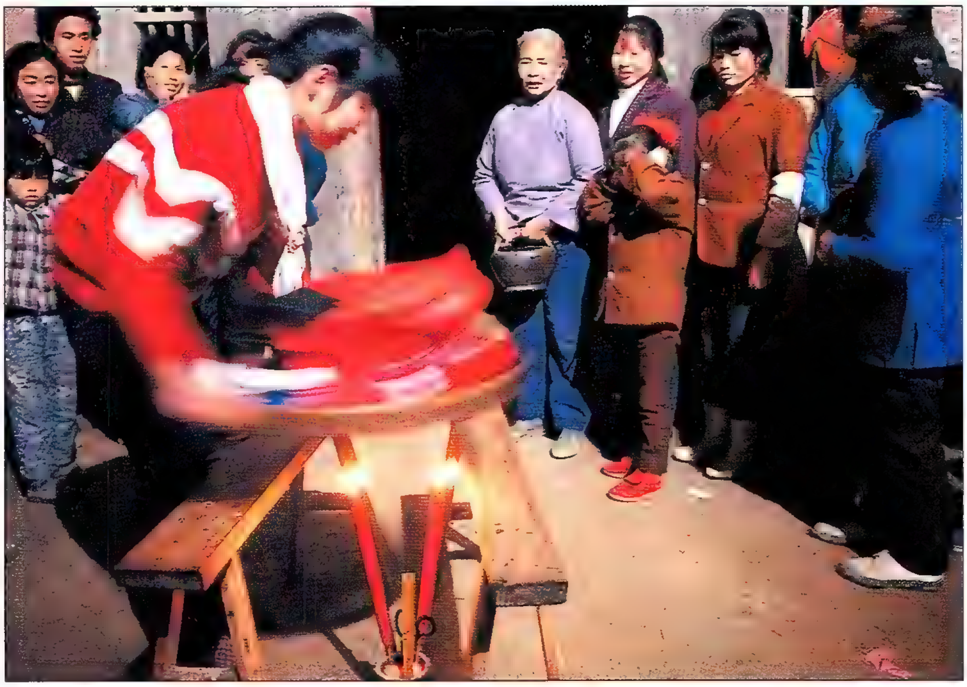
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This part of the wedding ceremony takes place in the groom's home (1, by Cui Jiannan). ▨ The Hakka people love to drink pounded tea (2, by Cui Jiannan). ▨ The elaborate ceremony called "passing over the rice sifter" is part of the wedding rites of the Hakka in Shibi (3, by Cui Jiannan). ▨ Workshops for making purple ceramic teapots in Shibi Village (4).

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process. Seeing such primitive ways of manufacturing paper helps one to better understand life long ago.

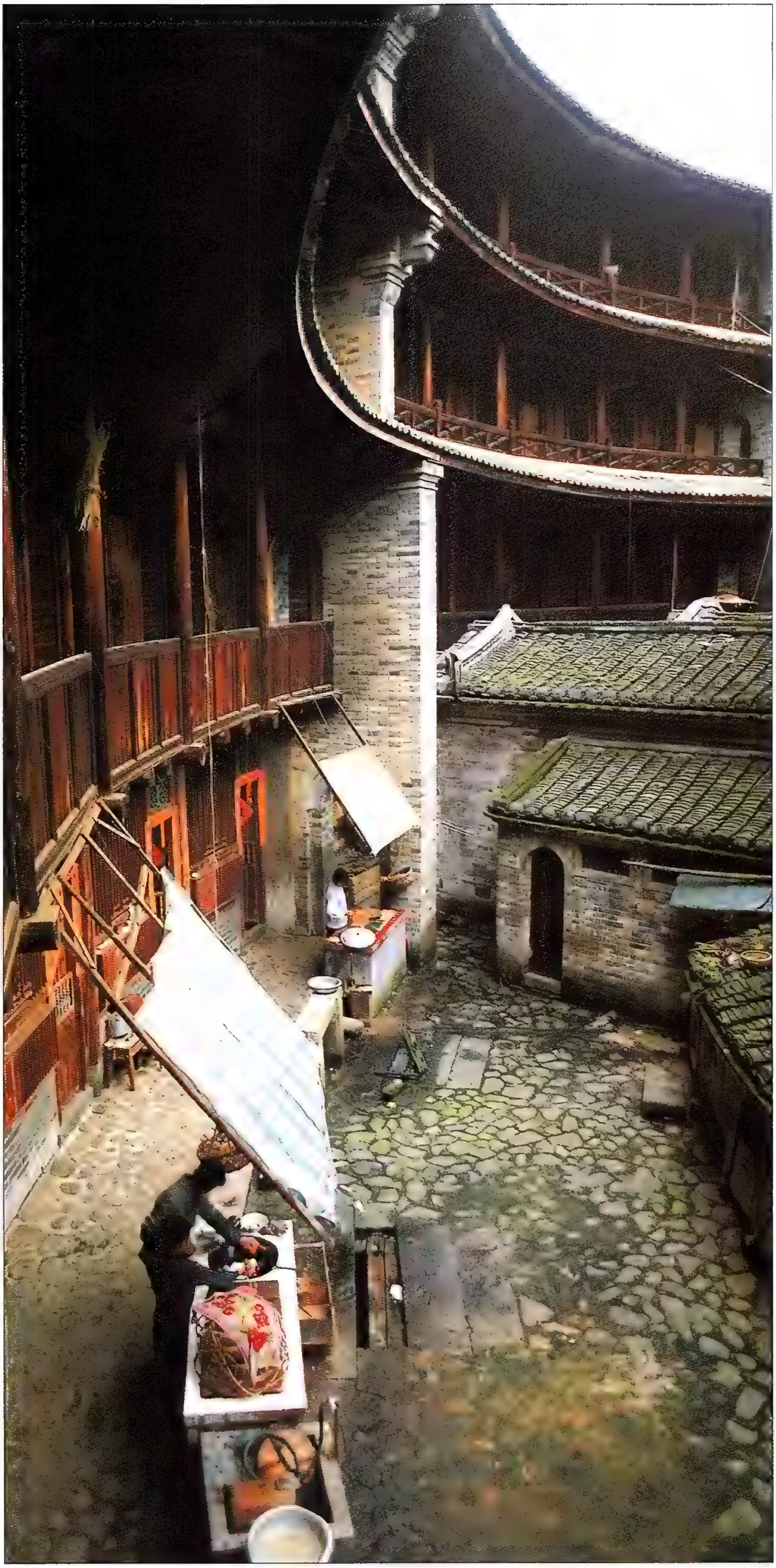
As our car entered Yongding County, tobacco plants began to appear in vast fields, as Yongding is an important tobacco producer in Fujian Province. More curious, however, were the many round, open-topped objects rising high in the fields. On closer inspection we found that they were earthen buildings typical to this region, and have been inhabited by generation after generation of Hakka people.

As early as 1,000 years ago, some of the original Hakka who migrated to Shibi continued on to the Yongding area, then still sparsely populated. To protect themselves against bandits and wild beasts, they used local materials to build tall, multi-storey circular earthen buildings where a whole family or clan could live. These buildings were both spacious and practically impregnable, and this unique building style has continued until now.

The most famous of these Hakka buildings is called the Zhencheng Building, and is located at the entrance of Hongkeng Village. The Zhencheng Building consists of two concentric circles; the outer circle four storeys high and the inner one two. This arrangement is designed to allow sufficient light to reach the inner sections. Inside the inner circle is the centre of the building, where there is a theatre-like main hall. In the main hall are four tall stone supporting columns, looking more like Western-style architecture than the traditional Chinese style of brackets and upturned eaves.

The circular structures surrounding the hall are also of unusual design, with elaborate spiralling cast iron railings painted green. The whole building consists of eight sections, eight staircases and eight halls with a well on both the left and right sides. As it resembles the Eight Trigrams used in Taoist divination, the Zhencheng Building is also called the Eight Trigrams Building.

In 1985, an exhibition of scale models of architecture from all over the world was held in Los Angeles. The Chinese architectural models on display included the famous Heavenly Temple and Yonghe Palace in Beijing, as well as the Zhencheng Building, an archetype of the circular earthen buildings of the Hakka people.



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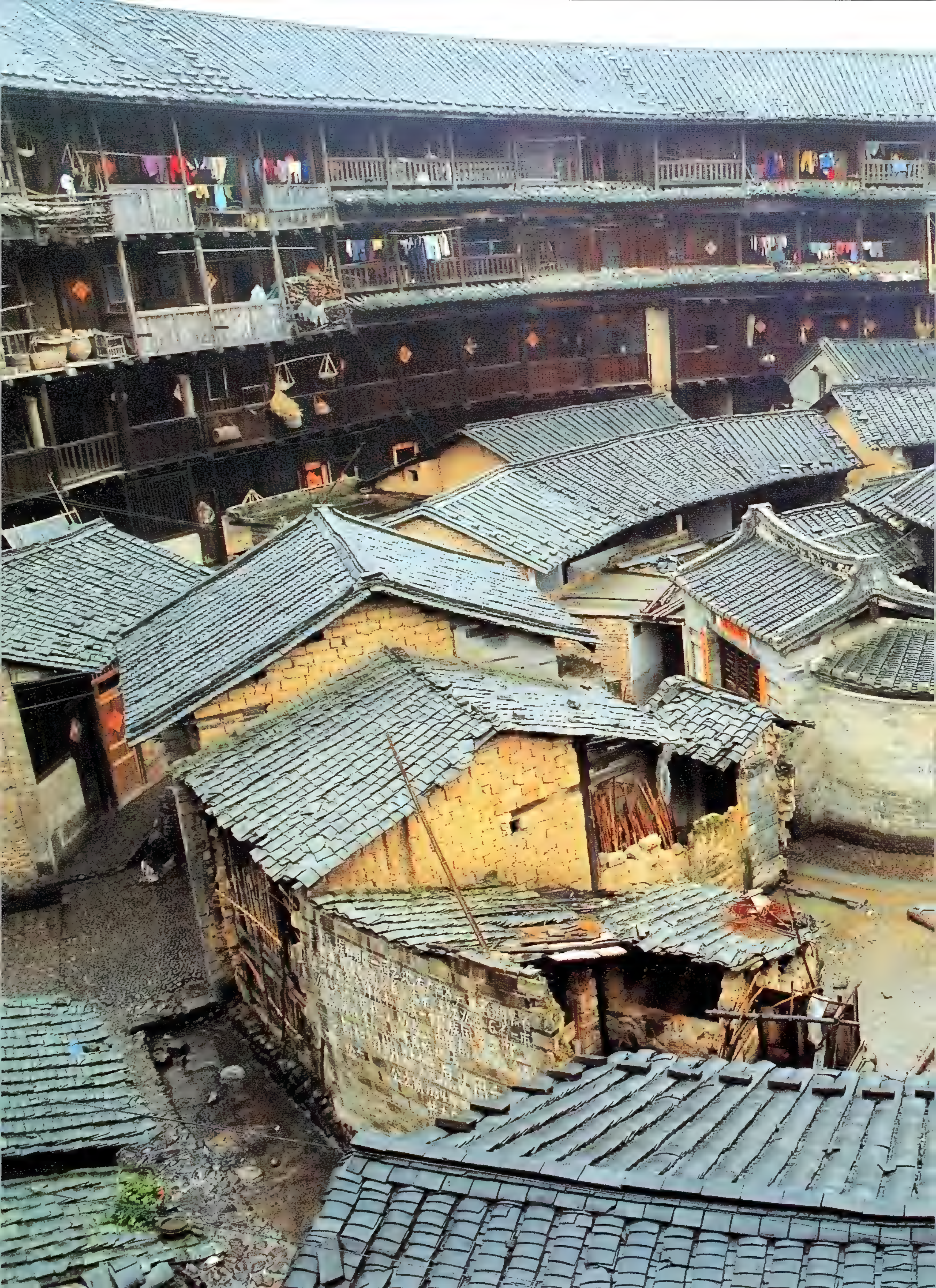
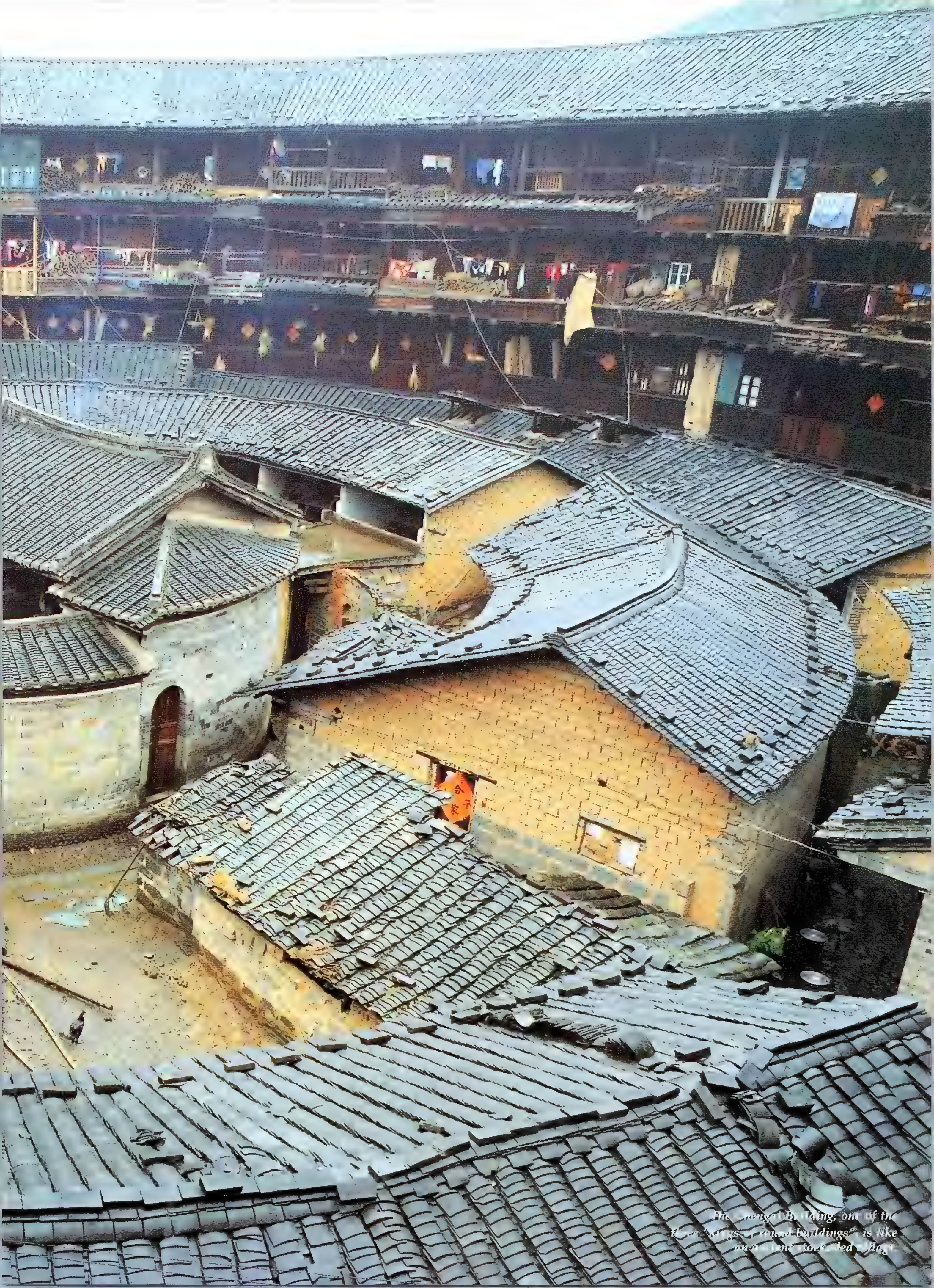
This basin at the centre of the Wuyi Mountain Range is home to many Hakka families (1). The square buildings, older than the round ones, date back a thousand years (2). There are many sheltered bridges like this one in Liancheng (3). Hakka villagers in Liancheng soak bamboo in ponds before using it as raw material for making Xuan paper (4). The Liancheng Xuan Paper Mill, built more than 300 years ago (5) The ground floor of Hakka earthen buildings is generally used for cooking (6).





The Chengqi Building, one of the three "kings of round buildings", is like an ancient stockaded village.

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Amazing Feats of Architecture

One of the present owners of the Zhencheng Building is Lin Shangsheng, a man in his early fifties and the grandson of Lin Xunzhi, the designer of the building. He and his 28 relatives reside in the rooms in the outer circle. Seeing that I was interested in the building, he took me to visit 97-year-old Lin Peixiu, who had participated in the construction of the Zhencheng Building. Despite his advanced years, Mr. Lin was in excellent health. When I saw him, he was just coming back from feeding pigs in the pigpen and teaching his great-grandson divination with a badly-thumbed copy of *Yi Jing (The Book of Changes)*. As the old man has never had any formal education, his knowledge of the *Yi Jing* came entirely from Lin Xunzhi. Lin Peixiu said that he had constructed many earthen buildings in his life, but the Zhencheng Building was the one he was most proud of.

He was only a teenager, he recalled, when the building was under construction. It was a formidable project at that time to construct such a big building in this remote mountainous region. Many roads had to be specially built just to transport the four stone columns from the quarry to the main hall. Each column had to be carried by 40 able-bodied men without the use of vehicles. The iron railings were made in an iron casting mill in Shanghai and shipped by sea to Xiamen, from where they were transported to a town near Fujian's southern city of Zhangzhou. They were then carried on the shoulders or backs of workmen over mountain after mountain. It took a full six years and 80,000 silver dollars to construct the Zhencheng Building.

I was lodged in a room on the second floor just next to the main hall in the inner circle of the Zhencheng Building. The room was simply furnished, but had an exquisitely carved wooden bed. The Zhencheng Building is now open to tourists, and about a dozen rooms are available for lodging.

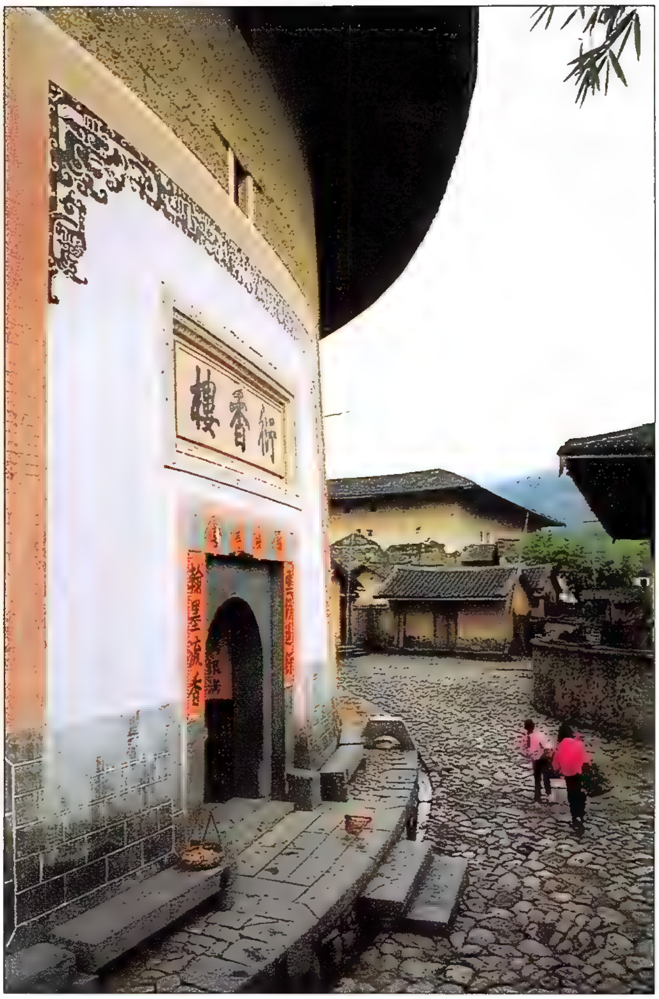
The next afternoon we went to Gaobei Village in Guzhu Township to visit the Chengqi Building, known as the "king of round buildings". As our car approached a downward slope near Gaobei Village, we could see below us many circular earthen buildings scattered among the mountains. We were told that there were more than a hundred buildings like this in the area, which perhaps explains why it was once mistaken as a rocket launching base by U.S. reconnaissance satellites!

The walls of the Chengqi Building are made of pounded earth and look like ancient city walls. Within this enormous outer circle, a unique Hakka cultural atmosphere reigns. The building measures 73 metres in diameter and is comprised of four concentric circles. In its centre is an ancestral hall with a semi-circular courtyard. This is the public gathering place for the several hundred residents of the building, where weddings, funerals or other celebrations are held. The structure of the outermost circle was almost identical with other round buildings I saw. The rooms on the ground floor are used as kitchens or dining rooms, those on the second floor for grain storage and only those on the third and fourth floors are inhabited by people. With the permission of the hosts, I ascended the winding corridor on the fourth floor to look down at the whole complex. Clustered below were 400 honeycomb-like rooms, one on top of another, home to 319 people of 57 households. Its design reminded me of the stockaded villages of certain ethnic minorities.

It was drizzling the next morning, and we prepared to leave. Our host's wife had got up very early to prepare us some *ciba*, a Hakka rice cake. This is made by steaming water-soaked glutinous rice and then pounding the steamed rice in a stone mortar. When it is done, lump after lump of rice is pulled out and mixed with other ingredients such as peanuts and brown sugar. To me, the lengthy and complicated preparation of this dish was symbolic of the wonderful hospitality of this "guest family".

Translated by Xia Ping

It is particularly fun to watch traditional puppet shows inside one of these earthen buildings (1). ▪ *The furniture inside earthen buildings today tends to be quite modern (2).* ▪ *The "machine" used for making* ciba *is in perfect harmony with the ancient atmosphere of the earthen buildings (3).* ▪ *The square Yanxiang Building has a round outer circle (4).* ▪ *Ancestors of Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui moved from Shibi to Yongding and lived there for 17 generations before they moved to Taiwan (5).* ▪ *97-year-old Lin Peixiu participated in the construction of the Zhencheng Building (6).*



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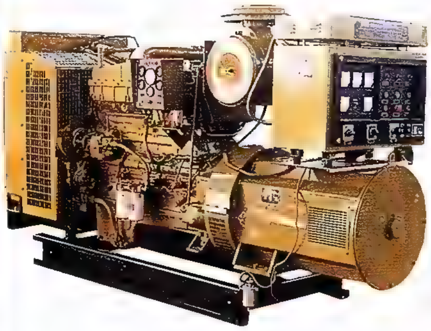

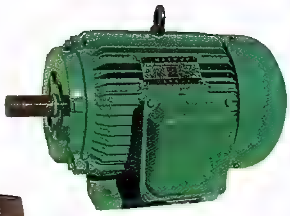

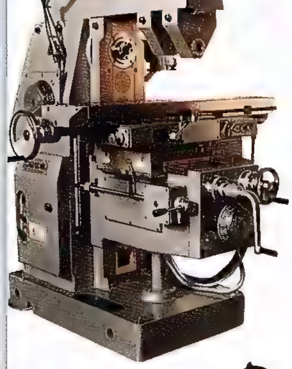

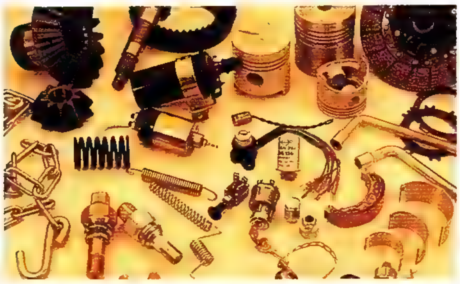

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Meizhou women wearing "Mazu costumes" and "Mazu hairstyles" pay homage at the Mazu Temple (1). ■ Fishnets drying in the sun form beautiful patterns on a beach on Meizhou Island (2). ■ The giant Mazu Statue on top of Mount Meifeng (3).

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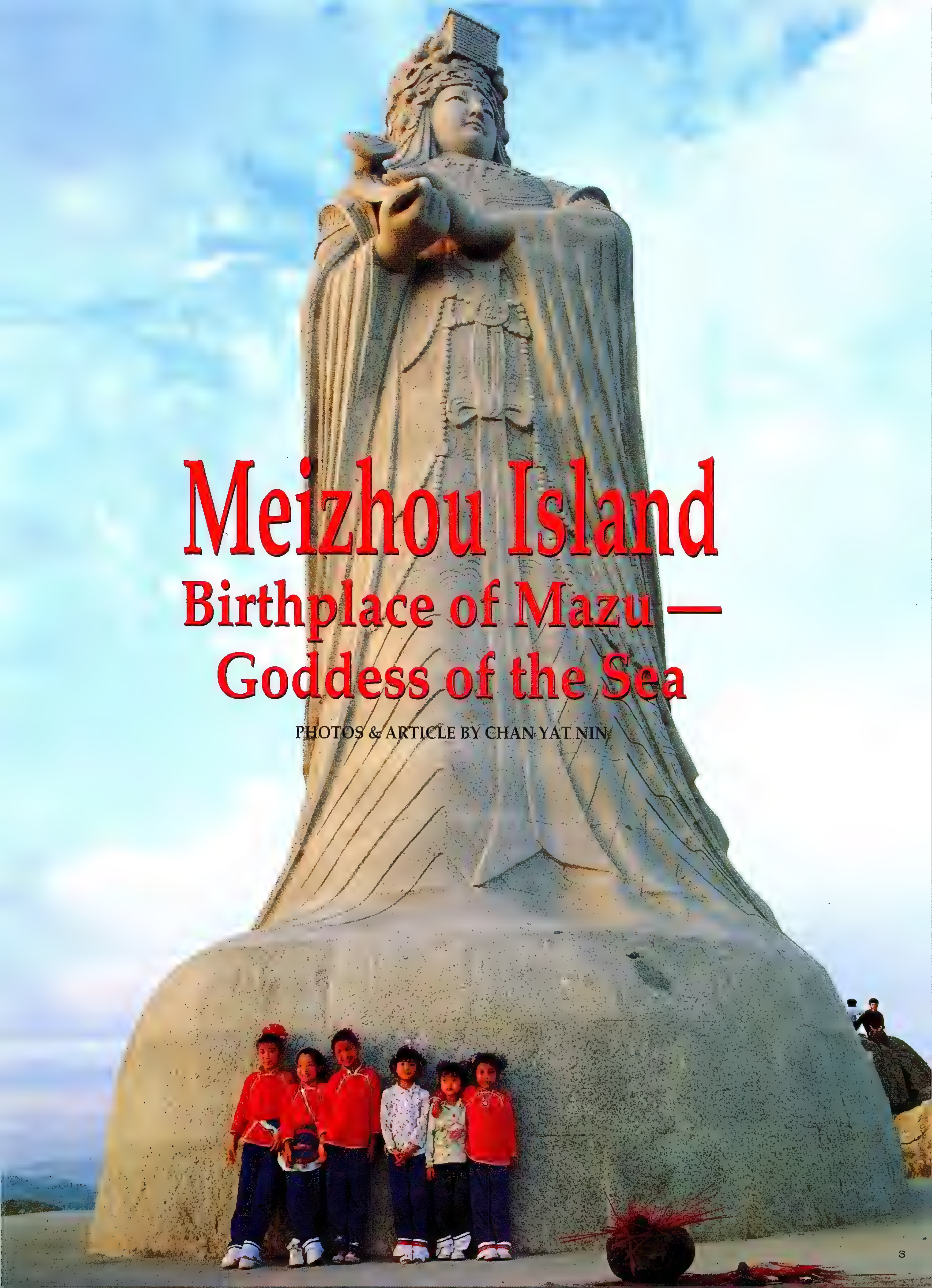

Meizhou Island

Birthplace of Mazu — Goddess of the Sea

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

In Meizhou Bay near the city of Putian in eastern Fujian there is a beautiful little island shaped like a long, narrow eyebrow. Although the island is only 16 square kilometres in area, thousands of people come here every year to pay homage to Mazu, a woman who lived long ago and became deified as a goddess. Now she is called either Mazu or Tianhou (the Holy Mother in Heaven), but no matter what name is used, she is known to all as the Goddess of the Sea. Protector of all seafaring people, it is only fitting that her major place of worship is on an island.

Viewed from the sea, palatial temples stand in great numbers on the island, their glazed gold-tiled roofs shining brightly against the blue sky. Towering above the cluster of temples is a statue of the goddess, whose graceful and poised figure blends in naturally with the scenery. She stands in the posture of one who is piloting a ship amidst raging wind and waves. Throughout the world there are more than 100 million devotees of the goddess and some 1,500 temples, the first of which was built here on Meizhou.

The magnificent Mazu Temple complex looks like a celestial palace (1). Meizhou women don traditional attire on Mazu's birthday (2). Pilgrims holding flags reading "The Holy Mother in Heaven" march up the road from the shore to Mount Meifeng (3). From Meizhou Island one can see the mainland off in the distance, Mazu's birthplace (4). Vessels with coloured banners moor at Meizhou Port to let off pilgrims who have come to pay homage (5).

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The Legend of the Goddess of the Sea

It has been over 1,000 years since Chinese people first started worshipping Mazu as the Goddess of the Sea. Mazu's original name was Lin Mo, and she was a descendant of the prominent Lin family of Fujian. According to historical records, one of Mazu's remote ancestors, Lin Lu, was sent at imperial behest to Fujian to work as prefect in what is now the city of Fuzhou in 325, during the Jin Dynasty. Lin Mo was born on the 23rd day of the third lunar month in the year 960 during the Song Dynasty in Xianliang Port (present-day Zhongmen Town) in Meizhou Bay.

She was born a strange child who did not cry once from the day she was born to the time she was one month old. For this reason she was given the name Mo (silence). From earliest childhood it was clear that Lin Mo was superbly intelligent. It is said that when she was 13, an old Taoist priest found that she was a girl with a deeply spiritual disposition, and he therefore passed on to her the secret teachings of Taoism. From then on, she led a religious life and studied diligently according to the priest's teachings.

Another version says that when Lin Mo was 16 she went together with some other girls to a well to look into the water and admire their dresses. Suddenly a celestial being emerged from the well and offered them a magic bronze tally. The other girls ran away in panic, but Lin Mo remained calm and took the tally completely unperturbed. From that moment on she was an enlightened being, and her magic powers increased daily.

Being a kind-hearted girl, Lin Mo was always lending a helping hand to villagers who were in difficulties, and became well known for her many good deeds. She was also proficient in medicine and cured the sick with medicinal herbs, at the same time teaching people how to prevent disease and ward off calamities. As she was familiar with the sea and was good at making astronomical observations and calculating weather changes, Lin Mo could tell when it was the right time for sailors and fishermen to put out to sea. It is said that she could ride the clouds across the ocean, and many times used her powers to turn the tide and save merchant ships and fishing boats from the perils of the sea. Due to her extraordinary kindness and miraculous powers, people began calling her "The Goddess" or "The Daughter of the Dragon".

Wherever There Are Chinese, There Is Mazu

On the ninth day of the ninth lunar month of the year 987, when Lin Mo had reached the age of 27, she said to her family, "I feel very peaceful and quiet in my mind, but I don't want to live in the human world any more. I would like to ascend the mountain and travel afar so as to realize my long-cherished wish...." Her family thought that she simply wanted to climb the mountain and enjoy the scenery — little did they know that she would never again return to them.

So Lin Mo climbed Mount Meifeng, and when she reached the top auspicious clouds appeared in the sky and mysterious music was heard. She jumped onto the clouds and went away with the wind. It is said that later people often saw her appear in the sky over the vast sea. Wearing red clothes, she would fly to and fro, appearing wherever there was danger to protect boats and people. In recogniton of her supernatural powers and great religious attainment, local people started to called her "Mazu" (literally "ancestral mother") and built a temple to her at the top of Mount Meifeng, from where she ascended to heaven and became an immortal.

The worship of Mazu as a goddess originated among the common people, but in later dynasties was officially encour-

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aged by the imperial court. The cult of Mazu spread very quickly in the coastal areas as well as to some inland provinces, and many temples were built to her. From the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) down through the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, Mazu was promoted by the imperial court and granted many titles — from "The Heavenly Concubine" and "The Heavenly Empress" to "The Holy Mother in Heaven". She was even classified as a goddess worthy of State sacrifices. However, regardless of the titles she was granted by the imperial court, she was always the guardian angel of the common folk, who continued to simply call her Mazu.

Later, with the development of marine transportation, Mazu worship was brought overseas by voyagers. Especially during the Ming and Qing dynasties, when many Chinese migrated abroad, the cult of Mazu spread to wherever Chinese went. Now, Mazu temples are found anywhere Chinese people live, all over the world.

The Celestial Meizhou Mazu Temple

For hundreds of years people have been burning incense at the Meizhou Mazu Temple, although it has been rebuilt and extended many times. In recent years the temple has undergone further repairs and reconstruction and has now reached an unprecedented scale, looking more like a celestial palace than a simple temple.

The temple's gate is in the style of a magnificent ancient city tower. On a sumeru platform constructed of rocks stands a city wall, on top of which is a tower with a nine-ridged roof. Its three arched doorways resemble those of the Forbidden City in Beijing. Behind the temple gate is the "Heavenly Ladder", a flight of 150 steep stone steps leading up to a huge stone ceremonial gateway. Behind it is a large square with a platform in the centre and a Drum Tower and Bell Tower on either side. If you walk up the stone steps along the central axis between the two towers you come to the Main Hall of the temple.

The Meizhou ancestral temple towers at the top of Mount Meifeng. On the left is the Main Hall, in the middle is Tianhou Hall, and on the right is Ascension-to-Heaven Pavilion (1). Tianhou Hall is the busiest place in the temple, with incense burning all year round (2). Pilgrim delegations from Taiwan are particularly large and hold impressive ceremonies where they "invite" Mazu statues to go home with them (3). Pilgrims carry statues of Mazu, which they will later take back to their hometowns (4). All year round Tianhou Hall is full of pilgrims (5). Mazu statues are prepared beforehand in the Meizhou ancestral temple for people from all parts of the country to take back with them. More than 2,000 Mazu statues are taken away every year (6).

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The magnificent Main Hall has a nine-ridged roof with upturned double eaves. On the front terrace of the Main Hall are two stone columns with exquisitely-carved coiling dragons, and inside the hall is a statue of Mazu. The Main Hall and the square are where the memorial ceremonies are held for Mazu every year. All kinds of activities such as performances, operas and acrobatics take place here. But the busiest place, the place where all worshippers come to burn incense, is Tianhou Hall, located just behind the Main Hall.

Tianhou Hall, also known as Chamber Hall, enjoys paramount prestige in the minds of believers because it was the first place where Mazu was ever worshipped. It is in fact the temple's ancestral hall and holds two statues of Mazu. The one in front is known as "Mazu Parading the Sky", as it can be dismantled and carried in a parade; the one at the rear is a clay statue called "Mazu Guarding the Hall", which is not removable. In front of the shrine is a "Dark-faced Mazu" statue brought from the town of Lukang in Taiwan, and another statue of Mazu from Hsinkang in Taiwan. Inside the hall are also various statues of the gods of the sea, military officers and civilian officials all in attendance, as well as images of the devils and spirits that have been subdued by her.

Pious worshippers cross the threshold with great respect, sincerely burning incense, making offerings and kneeling down to ask Mazu for blessings. Past this hall is the newly-built Ascension-to-Heaven Pavilion. From the top of the three-storey, pagoda-like pavilion one can see the entire temple complex. However, the best view of the island and its temples is from the summit of Mount Meifeng.

When pilgrims reach the top of the mountain, however, their first objective is not to enjoy the scenery but to look at the towering statue of Mazu there. This 14-metre-tall granite sculpture blends in beautifully with the white clouds floating past the peak. The statue embodies the qualities of both a goddess and a kind mother figure.

Grand Celebrations for Mazu's Birthday

People come to the temple to pay homage all year round, but the busiest day on Meizhou Island is the 23rd day of the third lunar month, Mazu's birthday. Every year, starting on about the 15th day of that month, boats and ships decorated with coloured pennants and laden with pilgrims arrive at Meizhou from all directions. By the 22nd and 23rd, everywhere on the island from the shore to the top of Mount Meifeng is packed with people. Gaily dressed, they sing and dance as they make their pilgrimage.

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Among the crowds of people there is usually a group of women whose clothes are particularly eye-catching. They wear tall, sail-shaped hairstyles and half-red, half-blue wide-legged trousers. People call them "Meizhou Women" and their outfits are said to be modelled on the costume Mazu used to wear. As Mazu is the goddess of the sea and protector of boats, her hairstyle is reminiscent of a sail, and the symbol of her identity as the Holy Mother in Heaven is the red outfit she wears when she flies through the sky. Since women in the human world are subordinate to her and therefore must not wear identical clothes, their trousers are only half red.

Among the pilgrims, some come representing their families, some as delegations selected from villages or townships, and others as "Incense-sharing Groups" that have been organized by Mazu temples in other places.

"Sharing Incense" or "Sharing the Goddess" means that Mazu temples elsewhere dispatch people to bring their temple's Mazu statue to Meizhou Mazu Temple, for all the statues of Mazu worshipped in other temples come from the ancestral temple at Meizhou. So, on important festival days such as Mazu's birthday and Mazu's ascension day (the ninth day of the ninth lunar month), clergy and laity at other temples organize pilgrim bands to come to Meizhou with their statues to have them "visit their old home". After these statues are worshipped in the ancestral temple, the pilgrim bands take them back to their home temples.

The eve of Mazu's birthday is the most sacred time for followers of the Mazu cult. Puxian Opera performances are held for the three days and nights around her birthday, attracting hundreds of pilgrims to the temple square. After the performance is over the pilgrims take part in various recreational activities in the square until almost midnight. Then they form into lines and climb the mountain, each one carrying burning incense. They vie with each other to reach Tianhou Hall first to offer incense to Mazu at zero hour on her birthday. They believe that it is most effective to worship the goddess and ask for her blessing at this hour.

Crowds of people fill the hall, which is thick with burning incense. Firecrackers are set off in front of the incense burner outside the hall, producing a deafening noise. After offering incense at Tianhou Hall, the pilgrims go to pay their respects at Ascension-to-Heaven Rock and then climb to the mountaintop to pay homage to the goddess' statue. A powerful lamp installed on top of the goddess' head shines like a luminous pearl the whole night through. Some of the pilgrims stay on the mountain till daybreak, while others go back to spend the night in Tianhou Hall.

Puxian Opera is staged for three days and three nights around Mazu's birthday (1). Pilgrims from outside the island spend the night in Tianhou Hall to show their reverence and respect for Mazu (2). On the eve of Mazu's birthday Tianhou Hall is brilliantly illuminated. Pilgrims hasten to offer the first incense to Mazu at zero hour on her birthday (3). The audience sitting in the square watch Puxian Opera with great interest (4).

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Inviting Mazu Statues Home

As the morning sun rises ushering in Mazu's birthday, the celebrations and sacrificial activities reach their climax. The whole of Mount Meifeng becomes a sea of people, and various performances typical to the Putian region are held in the temple square. People dressed up as sea spirits and monsters who were subdued by Mazu, or as gods who can summon the wind and rain, dance to express their hopes for safe sailing on the sea and peace in the world.

After the carnival comes the grand ceremony of Inviting Mazu Statues. Mazu statues are prepared beforehand in the Meizhou ancestral temple, and after being worshipped in the ancestral temple, they are "invited" to go to other places. Such invitations take place several dozen times in one day, with one group of people coming after another. In the meantime, the Mazu statues enshrined in the smaller temples on Meizhou Island are carried out to escort the statue of "Mazu Parading the Sky" on a parade. The statues are put in sedan chairs and carried by strong men, who dance vigorously as they go along, with pride and confidence.

Among the crowds of pilgrims, the delegations from Taiwan are particularly impressive. They ask the local believers to form a team of honour guards to beat gongs to clear the way for them. The heads of the delegations march at the front with Mazu statues tied to their chests with red ribbons. They are followed by people carrying statues of other deities. Like a mighty regiment, they march in and out. Some pilgrims from Taiwan even bring Mazu temple signboards from their hometowns all the way to Meizhou. After they have them blessed in the ancestral temple they take them back home. With Mazu's spirit imparted into them at exactly the right spot, the boards will protect worshippers for many years to come.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

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Major Hotels in Fujian Province

Fuzhou

Donghu (East Lake) Hotel Fujian

東湖賓館

73 Dongda Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel:557755 Telex: 92171 DHHFZ CN
Fax: (0591)-555519
GM: Chen Xuan
Opened 15 June 1984
318 rooms and 11 suites Rates: Standard US$40-50, suite US$70-200
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC￥15; railway station, FEC￥7
Facilities: Banqueting and conference amenities, Chinese and Western restaurants, disco, hot springs, coffee shop, bar, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, gym, swimming pool, massage, shopping arcade

Foreign Trade Centre Hotel

福建外貿中心酒店

Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel: 550154 Telex: 92158 FTC CN
Fax: 550358
GM: Kong Zheng Fang
195 rooms Rates: US$65-125
Located in the commercial district, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, meeting room,business centre, coffee shop, bar, disco, hot-spring swimming pool, karaoke, gym, beauty salon, tennis court, sauna, massage, billiard room

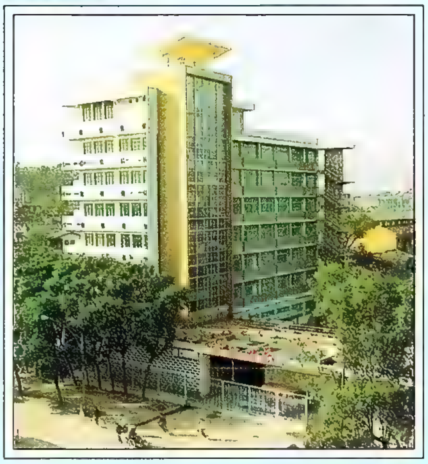
Fuzhou Lakeside Hotel

福州西湖大酒店

158 Hubin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003
Tel: 839888 Telex: 92265 FUHBC CN
Fax: (0591) 839752
GM: Lu Xiangqian
427 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$90, suite US$180-680
Located beside the West Lake, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, swimming pool, dancing hall

Fuzhou Qiao Lian Mansion

福州僑聯大廈



106 Wuyi Road North, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel: 0591-557858 Fax: 0591-533465
GM: Zhao Ru Qiu
Opened 8 October 1982
99 rooms and 3 suites Rates: US$21
Located 11 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, big and small conference rooms, beauty salon, coffee shop, dancing hall, karaoke

Haisnan Hotel

[illegible]

19 Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel: 557766 Fax: 534473
Room rates: US$20-30
Located 13 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Hot Spring Hotel

溫泉大飯店

Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003
Tel: 851818 Telex: 92180 HSHFZ CN
Fax: (0591) 835150
Opened 1986
311 rooms and suites Rates: US$55-150
Located 15 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, swimming pool, bowling, sauna, bar, beauty salon, karaoke, disco, massage

Hualin Hotel

華林賓館

209 Hualin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003
Tel: 840193
Room rates: Rmb￥100
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, karaoke, dancing hall, shopping arcade

Indesen Hotel

永德信大酒店

Liuyi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005
Tel: 311838 Fax: 314818
Room rates: Standard US$50, suite US$80
Located 15 minutes from airport, 8 minutes from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, sauna, beauty salon, nightclub, gym, swimming pool

Min-Capital Building Fuzhou

福建閩都大廈

117 Gutian Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005
Tel: 557720 Telex: 92187 MCB CN
Fax: (0591) 535060
GM: Chen Mingguang
Opened 1 June 1986
265 rooms and 5 suites Rates: US$33
Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥30; railway station, Rmb￥10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall,business centre, karaoke, nightclub, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon

Minjiang Hotel, Fuzhou

閩江飯店

Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel: 557895 Telex: 92146 MJHT CN
Fax: (0591) 551489
GM: Chen Tian'en
Opened 29 November 1984
412 rooms and 12 suites Rates: Standard US$45, suite US$84-150
Located 12 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥35; railway station, Rmb￥10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, disco, hot spring bathrooms, shopping arcade, dancing hall, beauty salon, massage

Overseas Chinese Hotel of Fuzhou

福州華僑大廈

116 Wusi Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350001
Tel: 557603 Telex: 92275 OCHFZ CN
Fax: 0591-550648
GM: Guo Fa
Opened September 1961
248 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Standard US$40-45, suite US$65-88
Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥30; railway station Rmb￥10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference and banquet halls, hot-spring bathroom, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, massage, beauty salon, karaoke

Railway Hotel

鐵道大廈

Wuyi Road Central, Fuzhou, Fujian 350005
Tel: 557782 Fax: 552077
Room rates: Standard FEC￥150, suite FEC￥280
Located 17 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, coffee shop, beauty salon

Taiwan Hotel

台灣飯店

28 Hualin Road, Fuzhou, Fujian 350003
Tel: 840570 Telex: 92253 TWHF CN
Fax: (0591) 841409
GM: Lin Wei
Opened 9 December 1987
120 rooms and 5 suites
Located 11 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥50; railway station, Rmb￥10
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, beauty salon, dancing hall, sauna

Tangcheng Mansion

唐城大廈

215 Wuyi Road South, Fuzhou, Fujian 350009
Tel: 269999 Fax: 268215
GM: Lin Guotai
Opened 1 November 1989
110 rooms and 1 suites Rates: US$20-25
Located 7 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥45 ; railway station Rmb￥15
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, dancing hall

Fuqing

Rong Qiao Hotel

融僑大酒店

Yuanhong Road, Fuqing, Fujian 350300
Tel: 224018 Fax: 224003
101 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$50, suite US$115-190
Located 50 km from airport, 57 km from railway station

Xiamen

East Ocean Hotel

東海大廈酒店

1 Zhongshan Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361001

Tel: 221111 Telex: 93164
Fax: 233264
GM: Zhuang Yong Tong
Opened 1 October 1988
112 suites Rates: Standard US$55, suite US$120
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 40; railway station Rmb ¥ 12
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, gym, beauty salon, billiard room, bar, karaoke, nightclub, clinic

Gulangyu Hotel
鼓浪嶼賓館

25 Huangyan Road, Gulangyu, Xiamen, Fujian 361002
Tel: 263856
80 rooms Rates: Rmb ¥ 90-400
Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Harbourview Xiamen
廈門假日皇冠海景大酒店

12-8 Zhenhai Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361001
Tel: 223333 Telex: 93138 HIHXM CN
Fax: 236666
367 rooms Rates: US$110-580
Located 10 km from airport, 4.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, clinic, swimming pool, shopping arcade, beauty salon, bar, karaoke

Jimei Hotel
集美賓館

174 Yinjiang Road, Jimei, Xiamen, Fujian 361021
Tel: 668560-9 Fax: 668279
146 rooms and suites Rates: Rmb ¥ 160-280
Located 4 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Conference rooms

Jinbao Hotel
金寶酒店

124-6 Dongdu Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361012
Tel: (86) 0592-613888 Telex: 93034 JINBO CN
Fax: (86) 0592-613122
GM: Wei Jinquan
Opened 5 October 1985
93 rooms and 7 suites Rates: Standard US$46, suite US$66
Located 7 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 80; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, bar, dancing hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, massage

Lujiang Hotel
鷺江賓館

54 Lujiang Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361001
Tel: 222922 Telex: 93024 LUTEL CN
Fax: (0592) 224644
130 rooms Rates: US$60
Located 14 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet and conference rooms, coffee shop, disco, bar, nightclub

Singapore Hotel
新加坡酒店

113-121 Xi'an Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361003
Tel: 225129 Telex: 93069 SINGA CN
Fax: 225920
121 rooms
Located 14 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference hall, shopping arcade, coffee shop, nightclub

Tong'an Hotel
同安賓館

199-201 Sanxiu Road, Tong'an, Xiamen, Fujian 361100
Tel: (0592)-722291/722431
Room rates: Rmb ¥ 150-200
Located 25 km from airport, 20 km from railway station
Facilities: Big and small restaurants, conference rooms, karaoke

Tong'an Overseas Chinese Hotel (CTS)
同安華僑大廈　中國旅行社

119 North Gate, Houlu Street, Tong'an, Xiamen, Fujian 361100
Tel: 722528 Fax: 223366
Opened 1982
34 rooms Rates: FEC ¥ 48-188
Located 27 km from airport, 35 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke

Xiamen Aviation Hotel
廈門航空賓館

5 Lianhua Road South, Xiamen, Fujian 361009
Tel: (0592) 554888 Telex: 93096 XAHCL CN
Fax: (0592) 553774
GM: Wang Yee
Opened 28 June 1987
110 rooms and 20 suites Rates: Standard US$40
Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 30; railway station, Rmb ¥ 8
Facilities: Karaoke, dancing hall

Xiamen Gulong Hotel
廈門鼓浪別墅

14 Huasheng Road, Gulangyu, Xiamen, Fujian 361002
Tel: 263280/260160 Fax: 260165
Opened 19 November 1989
39 rooms Rates: US$33-42
Located 8 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 30; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, karaoke, dancing hall, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, sauna, gym

Xiamen Hotel
廈門賓館

16 Huyuan Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361003
Tel: 222265/225275 Telex: 93065 CUEST CN
Fax: (086)-0592-221765
GM: Li Sibin
250 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Standard US$ 70, suite US$120
Located 15 km form airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, sauna, beauty salon, swimming pool, gym, massage, clinic

Xiamen Mandarin Hotel
廈門悅華酒店

Foreigners' Residential Area, Huli, Xiamen, Fujian 361006
Tel: 623333 Telex: 93028 MANDA CN
Fax: 621431
208 rooms and 22 self-contained villas
Located 6 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, international conference centre, business centre, shops, beauty salon, sauna, bowling ground, tennis courts, swimming pool, disco, massage, clinic, coffee shop, nightclub

Xiamen Miramar Hotel
廈門美麗華大酒店

Xinglong Road, Huli, Xiamen, Fujian 361006
Tel: 0592-621666 Fax: 0592-621814
GM: Loo Fook Sung
Opened 8 September 1988
144 rooms and 16 suites Rates: Standard US$55/60, suite US$90/100
Located 6 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 30; railway station Rmb ¥ 30
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, bar, coffee shop, karaoke, dancing hall, clinic, beauty salon

Xiamen Overseas Chinese Building
廈門華僑大廈

70-74 Xinhua Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361003
Tel: (0592) 225602 Telex: 93029 CTSXM CN
Fax: (0592) 238236
GM: Zhang Guo Qiang
Opened 1949
220 rooms and 16 suites Rates: US$43-69
Located 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 40; railway station, Rmb ¥ 10
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, sauna, coffee shop, massage, bar, gym, billiard room, beauty salon, shopping arcade, karaoke, clinic

Xiamen Plaza
廈門東南亞大酒店

XIAMEN PLAZA

908 Xiahe Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361004
Tel: 86-592-558888 Telex: 93081 XMXPH CN
Fax: 86-592-558877, 558899
GM: Ng Siu Fai
Opened 8 January 1991
263 rooms and 24 suites Rates: Standard US$80/90, suite US$105
Located 9 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥ 46

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, sauna, massage, swimming pool, beauty salon, nightclub, gym, clinic, karaoke, bar

Xiamen Science & Technology Hotel
廈門科技賓館
2 Huyuan Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361003
Tel 231313 Fax: 231312
78 rooms Rates: Rmb￥110
Located 8 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, functional rooms, shopping arcade

Xiamen Xinqiao Hotel
廈門新橋酒店
444 Zhongshan Road, Xiamen, Fujian 361003
Tel: 238883, 238333 Fax: 238765
97 rooms Rates: Standard US$48/60, suite US$75
Located 13 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Western restaurant, business centre, coffee shop, karaoke, dancing hall, sauna, massage, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Zhangzhou

Huafu Hotel
華福酒店
Dongshan, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363401
Tel: 20550 Telex: 93090 DFH CN
Fax: (05064) 20552
GM: Steven G
Opened 28 June 1987
108 rooms and 6 suites Rates: Double US$45, suite US$75
Located 240 km from airport, 148 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, sauna, massage, recreation centre, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop

Zhangzhou Guesthouse
漳州賓館
4 Shengli Road, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000
Tel: 223322 Fax: (0596)-223431
291 rooms
Located 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, karaoke, bar, coffee shop, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Zhangzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel
漳州華僑飯店

33 Xinhua Road North, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000
Tel: 229988 Telex: 93137 FZOCH CN
Fax: (0596)-225201
GM:Tao Min
Opened 26 February 1990
158 rooms and 8 suitees Rates: Standard US$29/38, suite US$46/57
Located 65 km from airport, 800 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, bar, dancing hall, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Zhangzhou Overseas Chinese Mansion
漳州華僑大廈
38 Yan'an Road North, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000
Tel: 226614 Telex: 93137 FZO CN
Fax: (0596)-226620
57 rooms Rates: US$13-20
Located 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, clinic

Zhangzhou Taiwan Hotel, Fujian
福建漳州台灣飯店
1 Shengli Road West, Zhangzhou, Fujian 363000
Tel: (0596) 227736 Fax: (0596)-229427
Room rates: US$15-20
Located 1.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, karaoke, shopping arcade

Quanzhou

Golden Fountain Hotel Co. Ltd. Quanzhou
泉州金泉酒店有限公司
Baiyuanqing Pool, Quanzhou, Fujian 362000
Tel: (0595) 225078 Telex: 93083 CTSQZ CN
Fax: (0595) 224388
GM: Lin Shouchang
Opened 30 August 1987
91 rooms and 5 suites Rates: Standard US$25-50, suite US$75
Located 94 km from airport, 106 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥200; railway station, Rmb￥230
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, conference room, business centre, beauty salon, clinic, coffee shop, dancing hall, bar, shopping arcade, massage

Quanzhou Hotel
泉州酒店
22 Zhuangfu Lane, Quanzhou, Fujian 362000
Tel: 229958, 229968 Fax: 212128
178 rooms and suites Rates: FEC￥209-275
Located 95 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurant, conference room, coffee shop, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic, karaoke, sauna

Quanzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel
泉州華僑大廈
West of Baiyuanqing Pool, Quanzhou, Fujian 362000
Tel: 0595-222192 Fax: 0595-224612
GM: Zhang Qing Jiang
Opened 16 January 1993
234 rooms and 13 suites Rates: Standard US$38-51, suite US$70/200
Located 97 km from airport, 105 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, US$26; railway station, US$25
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, conference hall, business centre, function hall, billiard room, dancing hall, shopping arcade, massage, beauty salon, coffee shop

Quanzhou Qiaolian Hotel
泉州僑聯大廈
Wenling Road Central, Quanzhou, Fujian 362000
Tel: 225601, 225792 Fax: 223312
Room rates: Rmb￥84-132
Facilities: Restaurant, dancing hall, shopping arcade

Zaitun Hotel Quanzhou
泉州刺桐飯店
1 Yingbin Road, Quanzhou, Fujian 362000
Tel: 212108 Fax: 0595-226464, 213028
GM: Xu Qichang
Opened 21 September 1992
166 rooms and 12 suites Rates: Standard US$35-65, suite US$120
Located 100 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥400; railway station, Rmb￥20
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, clinic, bar, dancing hall, coffee shop, karaoke, sauna

Shishi

Shishi Overseas Chinese Mansion
石獅市華僑大廈
8 Xinda Street, Shishi, Fujian 362700
Tel: 471646 Fax: (0595)-471643
97 rooms Rates:US$28-43
Facilities: Karaoke, bar, disco

Wuyishan

Wu Yi Mountain Villa
武夷山莊

Wuyi Palace, Wuyishan, Fujian 354302
Tel: 52683 Fax: 05098-52567
GM: Zhou Yongyu
Opened February 1984
150 rooms and 7 suites Rates: US$30/45
Located 7 km from airport, 80 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, karaoke, dancing hall, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage

Yunü Hotel
玉女大酒店
Wuyishan, Fujian 354302
Tel: 05098-52988 Fax: 05098-52258
148 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, bar, nightclub, karaoke, billiard room, coffee shop, swimming pool, sauna, massage

Putian

Tian Fei Hot Spring Hotel
天妃溫泉飯店
Chengxiang District, Putian, Fujian 351100
Tel: (0594) 225588 Telex: 925005 TFHH CN
Fax: 225068
GM: Wang Yuming
Opened 18 March 1992
89 rooms and 6 suites Rates: US$38
Located 98 km from airport, 108 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb￥178; railway station, Rmb￥196
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dancing hall, sauna, massage, beauty salon, bar

Arts and Crafts in Fujian

TEXT BY SHI BAO XIU

Fujian Province's picturesque landscapes and natural beauty have produced a people with a strong sense of the artistic, and in their hands a number of new art forms have taken shape. Over the generations their skills have been passed on and polished to a point of near perfection, resulting in a richness and vitality typical of Fujian's culture. The following are some of the most prominent examples of Fujian's arts and crafts.

Shoushan Stone Carving

Shoushan stone is a kind of alabaster quarried from a mountain called Shoushan in the northern suburbs of Fuzhou. With a soft, smooth surface and variegated colours, this stone makes an ideal material for carving. We know from the sculptured stone pigs found in an ancient tomb from the Southern Dynasties that Shoushan stone carving has been in existence for some 1,500 years.

The stone carvings of the later Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties were generally Buddha statues, incense burners, rosaries and funeral figurines. During the Yuan and Ming (1271-1644), Shoushan stone also came to be used for seal carving. Later, craftsmen excelled in various carving styles and many different schools were formed. Types of Shoushan stone carving now include circular, relief, openwork, hollowed out, *boyi* (shallow relief) and marquetry carving. Top craftsmen are able to create wonderful images by utilizing the natural contours and fine streaks of colour in the stone.

Hui'an Stone Carving

Hui'an, a city on the coast of Fujian, is known as the "home of stone carving". Legend has it that in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) when troops were fighting in this area, some of the men who came from Anhui's Shouxian County and excelled in quarrying and stone carving decided to settle down in Hui'an and resume their old profession. During the Yongle reign (1403-1424) of the Ming Dynasty, stone carving workshops began to appear in the region. They produced mainly architectural decorations, and these decorative carvings made their way to many temples and monasteries in Fujian and Taiwan, as well as some of Beijing's grandest buildings.

Hui'an's stone carvings have seen many developments over the years, and now number some 130 varieties which can be divided into three categories: stone tablets, stone products for ornamental use and stone products for daily use. In 1970 a new type of stone art was created which involved highly detailed carvings that are exact copies of photos or paintings, meticulously done on a flat piece of stone.

Quanzhou's puppet heads (by Shangguan Zhonghua)

Dehua Porcelain

West of Putian is Dehua County, where Dehua porcelain is produced. Known as one of the major porcelain capitals of China, the beginning of Dehua porcelain dates back to the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420). During the Song Dynasty (960-1279) this industry reached its greatest height of prosperity, exporting products in large quantities.

Solid and smooth, Dehua porcelain is resistant to both heat and cold. One type of "Jianbai" porcelain in particular has a sparkle and lustre even more stunning than white jade. Its ivory-while colour and superb workmanship make it a favourite among art lovers everywhere.

Puppet Heads

The initiator of this craft is believed to be a man named Jiang Jinbang, a late Qing-dynasty craftsman living in Quanzhou who was skilled at carving Buddha figures. In his time he was able to produce 136 different kinds of wooden puppet heads. His son Jiang Jiazou learned his father's skills, and himself became a master puppet-maker, specializing in carving wooden heads. He developed 280 different puppet characters with movable mouths and eyes. In Quanzhou a factory has been set up especially to manufacture carved puppet heads, in order to keep alive this traditional craft.

Bodiless Lacquerware

This unique craft is considered one of China's three folk art treasures, together with Jingdezhen's porcelain and Beijing's cloisonné. The creation of bodiless lacquerware begins with a clay, plastic or wooden mould, with raw lacquer used as glue. Then the "body" is wrapped in layers of ramie or silk. After the mould has dried, the body is removed and finished with polishing, delineating and embellishing.

From 1898 to 1936 Fuzhou's bodiless lacquerware won many gold prizes in the World Expos held in Panama, Paris, Tokyo and Berlin. In recent years artists have developed their furbishing, designing and embossing skills, while at the same time they have created new techniques which combine those used in jade, stone, ivory and wood carving.

Lacquer Bowls

Lacquer bowls from Fujian's Xianyou County are especially popular with people in Japan and Southeast Asia, who use them either as table-ware or as sacrificial objects for worship.

Xianyou's lacquer bowls are exquisitely made with elegant designs. They have the added advantages of being without odour or noxious substances, and the lacquer will never peel off. The bowls are insulating and are also alkali and acid resistant. Under ten centimetres high and about one centimetre thick, they are less cumbersome than gold and less fragile than glass. Over 20 varieties are available.

Yongchun Lacquer Baskets

It is believed that lacquer basket making began as early as the reign of Emperor Zhengde (1506-1521) of the Ming Dynasty. Over the past four centuries this craft has reached its present state of perfection, and there are now over 100 varieties and four categories of lacquer baskets. The small ones are mostly used for storing jewellery, while people in southern Fujian and overseas Chinese use them as dowry containers.

Lacquer Painting

Building on the workmanship of bodiless lacquerware, Fuzhou's lacquer painting has developed into an art form in its own right. Although just over a decade old, it has already found great popularity. In lacquer painting the artist can depict a wide range of subjects and images such as human figures, flowers, birds, animals and landscapes. Screens and wall hangings are the major forms this art takes, and are often bought to decorate hotels, restaurants or villas.

In addition to the above, Fujian also produces paper umbrellas, lacquer thread carvings and paper-cuttings. Fujian's varied and beautiful arts and crafts play an important role in the province's cultural heritage, while also contributing greatly to the development of both foreign trade and tourism.

Translated by K.V. Ku

Train Schedules
Wuchang — Nanchang — Fuzhou

386/387 O.	382/383 O.	292/289 F.T.	Train No. Station	290/291 F.T.	384/381 O.	388/385 O.
		08:48	**Wuchang**	14:13		
		10:32	**Echeng**	12:39		
		16:02	**Jiujiang South**	07:31		
17:58	20:45	19:08	**Nanchang**	04:43	06:49	12:23
20:52	00:00	22:31	**Yingtan**	01:50	04:00	09:45
01:08	03:52	02:29	**Shaowu**	22:02	00:31	06:19
04:00	07:08	05:38	**Laizhou**	19:06	21:10	03:12
To Xiamen	07:50	06:21	**Nanping**	18:12	20:22	From Xiamen
	11:28	09:53	**Fuzhou**	14:18	16:25	

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

O. — Ordinary passenger train

N.B. All trains depart on alternate days for Nanchang — Xiamen.

Train Schedules
Fuzhou — Xiamen

393/392 O.	Train No. Station	394/391 O.
13:23	**Fuzhou**	13:52
14:25	**Minqing**	—
15:29	**Gutian**	11:51
16:50	**Nanping**	10:23
17:58	**Laizhou**	09:40
19:43	**Sanming**	07:38
23:27	**Zhangping**	03:58
03:24	**Zhangzhou**	00:08
04:35	**Jimei**	—
04:53	**Xiamen**	22:28

Train Schedules
Beijing — Shanghai — Fuzhou

45 Exp.	Train No. Station	46 Exp.
10:40	**Beijing**	05:45
12:40	**Tianjin West**	04:04
14:09	**Cangzhou**	—
17:29	**Jinan South**	23:27
21:52	**Xuzhou**	19:11
03:01	**Nanjing**	14:17
04:49	**Changzhou**	12:24
05:33	**Wuxi**	11:47
07:29	**Shanghai West**	10:10
10:24	**Hangzhou East**	06:54
13:52	**Jinhua**	03:37
17:36	**Shangrao**	23:47
19:48	**Yingtan**	21:44
01:46	**Laizhou**	16:00
05:14	**Fuzhou**	12:14

Exp. — Express

Train Schedules
Guangzhou — Fuzhou

269/268 F.T.	Train No. Station	267/270 F.T.
20:10	**Guangzhou**	10:02
23:55	**Shaoguan**	05:56
03:18	**Chenzhou**	02:37
06:16	**Hengyang**	23:59
08:42	**Zhuzhou**	21:30
13:37	**Xinyu**	16:20
17:58	**Nanchang**	12:40
20:52	**Yingtan**	09:45
04:00	**Laizhou**	03:12
06:02	**Gutian**	00:31
07:53	**Fuzhou**	22:42

N.B. All trains depart on alternate days.

Train Schedules
Shanghai — Hangzhou — Xiamen

397 O.	395 O.	75 Exp.	Train No. Station	76 Exp.	396 O.	398 O.
15:00		08:00	**Shanghai**	21:17		11:57
17:06		09:51	**Jiaxing**	19:28		09:56
—	14:30	—	**Hangzhou**	—	12:19	—
18:44	—	11:13	**Hangzhou East**	18:10	—	07:39
23:14	18:44	14:40	**Jinhua**	14:29	07:45	03:05
04:11	23:40	18:44	**Shangrao**	10:33	03:08	21:51
06:50	02:44	21:34	**Yingtan**	08:23	00:28	18:30
13:00	09:11	03:18	**Laizhou**	01:38	18:00	12:15
To Fuzhou	10:59	04:55	**Sanming**	22:44	16:01	From Fuzhou
	18:28	—	**Zhangzhou**	—	08:58	
	19:45	12:12	**Xiamen**	16:00	07:30	

Train Schedules
Hefei — Nanjing — Xiamen

321/324 O.	Train No. Station	322/323 O.
14:50	**Hefei**	00:35
17:25	**Bengbu**	22:10
20:51	**Nanjing**	18:37
23:35	**Wuhu**	15:14
00:44	**Xuancheng**	13:48
04:48	**Huangshan**	10:08
08:38	**Jingdezhen**	06:16
12:20	**Yingtan**	03:00
15:55	**Shaowu**	23:10
21:10	**Sanming**	18:18
04:18	**Zhangzhou**	11:06
05:35	**Xiamen**	09:38

N.B. The trains depart on alternate days from Hefei and Nanjing West stations.

Average Climatic Conditions in Fujian Province

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Fuzhou	Temperature (°C)	10.5	10.7	13.4	18.2	22.1	25.5	28.8	28.2	26.0	21.7	17.5	13.1
	Rainfall (mm)	49.8	76.3	120.0	149.7	207.5	230.2	112.0	160.5	131.4	41.5	33.1	31.6
Xiamen	Temperature (°C)	12.6	12.6	15.0	19.1	23.1	26.1	28.4	28.2	27.0	23.3	19.4	15.2
	Rainfall (mm)	37.3	66.9	76.5	124.0	154.7	207.1	150.4	144.0	96.3	32.1	27.8	26.1
Wuyishan	Temperature (°C)	1.7	3.1	7.5	12.2	15.6	18.6	21.5	20.6	17.6	12.9	8.1	4.3
	Rainfall (mm)	67.0	114.4	193.1	248.2	346.2	346.4	395.8	234.7	210.1	110.8	66.9	63.7
Quanzhou	Temperature (°C)	12.5	12.5	15.3	20.0	24.0	25.7	28.2	28.0	26.5	22.6	18.6	14.4
	Rainfall (mm)	36.0	36.7	83.3	118.4	191.0	196.1	124.5	146.2	78.9	41.9	22.8	29.9
Zhangzhou	Temperature (°C)	12.7	13.2	15.8	20.0	24.0	26.4	28.7	28.4	26.8	22.7	19.2	15.1

NEWS

Memorial Hall for Panchen Lama

A memorial hall dedicated to Tibet's 10th Panchen Lama has been completed recently in the Tibetan town of Xigazê's Tashilhunpo Monastery. Said to possess the world's largest gold-covered stupa, the new memorial buildings cost US$1.1 million and took four years to complete. The 10th Panchen Lama was one of Tibet's major religious leaders from the 1950s to his death in Xigazê in 1989.

Shenzhen Gets New Air Routes

The Shenzhen Aviation Company recently started up a new air route from Shenzhen to Shanghai and is planning to begin five more linking up Shenzhen to other cities in the future. The other five destinations are Yantai in Shandong Province, Nanjing in Jiangsu Province, Hangzhou and Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province and the special economic zone of Xiamen in Fujian Province.

New Wax Museum at Beijing's Ming Tombs

People interested in seeing what Ming-dynasty emperors looked like need wait no longer. The Ming Emperors Waxworks Hall at the Ming Tombs site near Beijing is now open to visitors. Of the 16 emperors that reigned during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), 13 are buried at this site. The waxworks hall includes 50 life-sized wax sculptures meant to resemble both emperors and eunuchs of that time. Created according to historical records, the figures are dressed in costumes typical of the Ming Dynasty, and were made by a professor from the Central Academy of Fine Arts who comes from a long line of wax figure artists.

Direct Hainan-Bangkok Route Open

A direct air route has begun operation from Hainan Province's capital city of Haikou to Bangkok. Previously passengers had to fly to Thailand's capital via Hong Kong, a trip that lasted six hours. Now, however, the new route will cut flying time to just two hours and 20 minutes.

2,000-Year-Old Tombs Discovered

Two intact tombs from the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) have been discovered near the city of Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province. Designs on the tombs and the artefacts found inside them indicate that the deceased belonged to the State of Chu, which held sway over large parts of central China at that time. Over 60 well-preserved objects were found in the tombs, including a bronze mirror, lacquerware and pottery.

Weekly Kunming-Shanghai Flights Launched

Yunnan Airlines, in co-operation with a Zhanjiang air charter company, has opened up a new air route between Shanghai and Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. Flights depart every Tuesday and stop over in Guangdong Province's southwestern city of Zhanjiang near Hainan Province. Ticketing for both passengers and cargo transport is handled solely by the Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport Aviation Service Company.

NEXT ISSUE

ON THE TRAIL OF MAO ZEDONG

December 26, 1993 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong. Apart from his many other achievements, Mao Zedong also traversed the length and breadth of China throughout his lifetime. In our next issue we will be exploring some of the places related to Mao's life, as well as reporting on recent Mao trends and some of the changes that have taken place since Mao's time. We will also be publishing the third and last instalment of "By Motorbike Along China's Borders", and much more.

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中國民俗文化村佔地24萬平方米，按1：1比例建造中國各地區少數民族之24個村寨和20多個景點，數百名少數民族藝員表演歌舞和民間技藝，使您領略各民族的民間藝術和民族風情。

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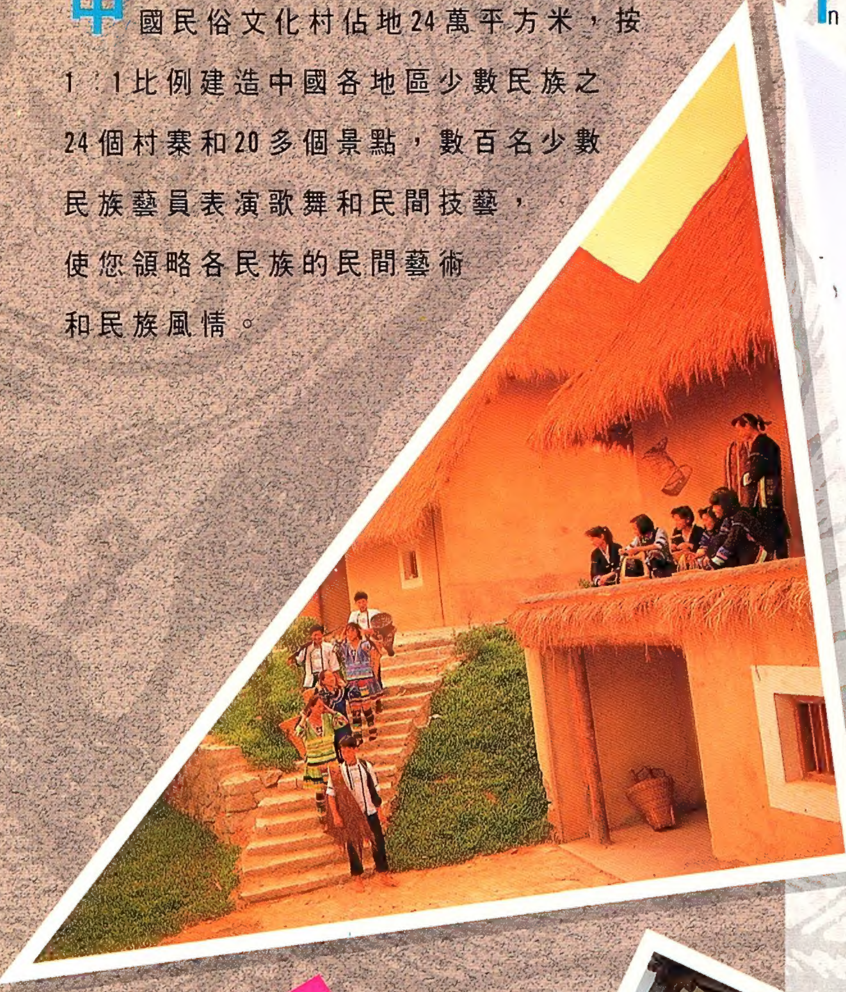

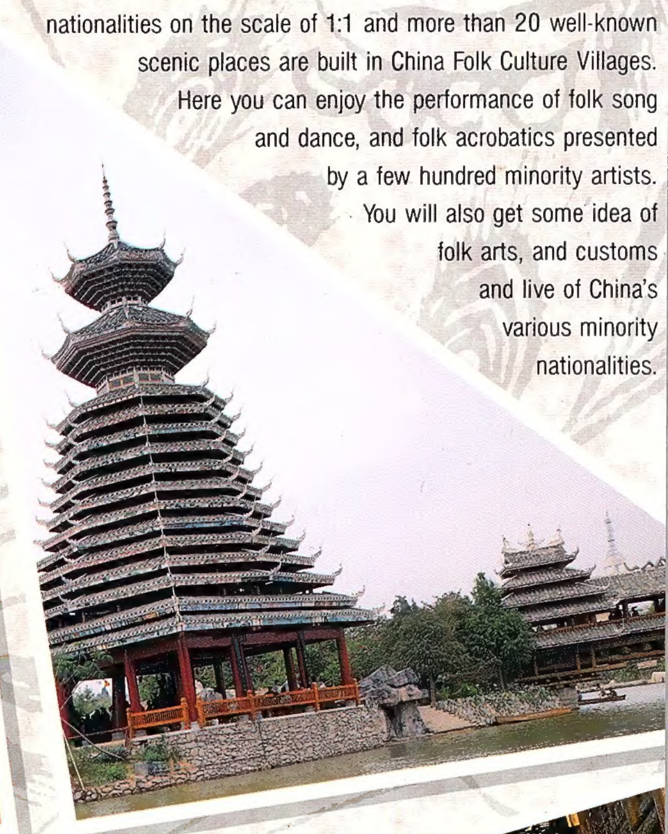

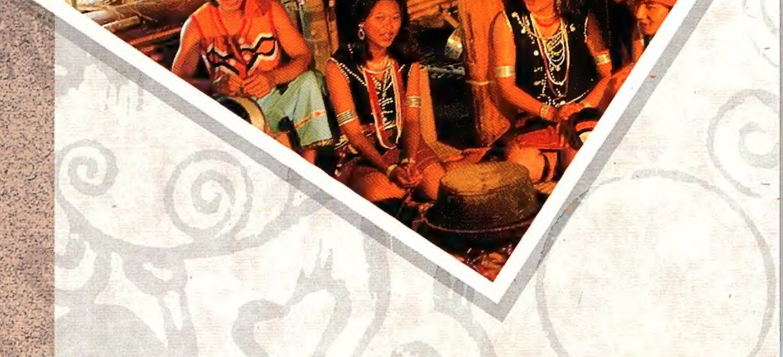

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